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Middle East & North Africa

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'ARAFAT CALLS FOR SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING

JN162008Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 2006 GMT 16 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 16 March--Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has demanded an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council to discuss the Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon. Announcing the news tonight, the Palestinian news agency [WAFA] said that 'Arafat has asked the PLO UN representative to strive for an immediate meeting of the council.

'ARAFAT SENDS MESSAGE TO AS-SADAT ON LEBANON

NC170747Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0727 GMT 17 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 17 March--AL-JUMHURIYAH reports today that the PLO office has received a telex message addressed by Yasir 'Arafat to President Anwar as-Sadat and that PLO Political Department Deputy Chief Sa'id Kamal delivered the message to the office of Husni Mubarak at noon yesterday.

The paper says that 'Arafat in his message asks Egypt to use its good offices with the United States to stop the annihilation operations to which the Palestinian people are being exposed.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds that Yasir 'Arafat describes the operations in southern Lebanon as a war of extermination because the number of the civilian victims has reached 500 whereas the number of the victims among the fedayeen is no more than seven [figure as received]. Yasir 'Arafat affirms that the resistance will not abandon its positions and that it continues to resist.

The paper then says that Yasir 'Arafat has asked for urgent and quick Arab intervention to stop the war of annihilation. He also asked for a unified Arab stand on the catastrophe of exterminating the Palestinian people.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM SOVIET LEADERS

NC162322Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat today received a message from the Soviet leaders. The message, whose contents are not known, was handed to him by Soviet Ambassador in Lebanon Aleksandr Soldatov.

ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL DISCUSSES SITUATION IN LEBANON

NC161203Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1136 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 March--The Arab League Council held a special session at 1315 today to discuss the situation in Lebanon at the request of the Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad. The meeting was held at the level of Arab ambassadors who are permanent delegates to the Arab League.

Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad said after the meeting that he had informed the council of the measures he took yesterday. Contacting UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim, sending messages to the Arab kings and presidents on the Israeli aggression on Lebanon and receiving reports from New York about the meetings of the Arab UN delegates and their approval to go to the Security Council upon receiving the reply of the Lebanese Government, which is now contacting the Security Council member states before expressing its specific view on calling on the Security Council to convene to consider the Israeli aggression against Lebanon.

The Arab League secretary general added that he had presented to the council his views on the situation--that is, that Israel has entered Lebanon to stay. What Israel is now doing in Lebanon is nothing but further expansion. Israel tried to do the same thing in the forties and in the 1956 aggression. It did so in 1967 by committing acts of aggression against the Palestinian people, Egypt, Syria and Jordan. Among its neighbors, only Lebanon remained for it [to expand in]. Therefore, it recently deemed it suitable to attack it and annex southern Lebanon, which falls within the framework of Israeli expansion.

Mahmud Riyad added that what Israel is saying about getting out of Lebanon is nothing but camouflage. It will not get out of it unless actual pressure is exerted on it. It will not get out of Lebanon unless it is forced to do so. Therefore, the Security Council member states have a special responsibility in this respect.

The Arab League secretary general went on to say that he supports going to the Security Council, especially now that Israel has disavowed Resolution 242 and embarked on new expansionist operations, not remaining content with rejecting peace but instead advancing with its forces to occupy new Arab territories.

Mahmud Riyad said he informed the Arab League Council of an official proposal presented by the Yemeni Arab Republic to the Arab League today calling for holding an Arab summit meeting in order to restore Arab solidarity and consider the Israeli aggressions against Lebanon.

He added that he supports this proposal. When Israel committed an aggression against Egypt in 1956, the Arab leaders met in Beirut to consider the aggression. When Israel committed an aggression on the Arab states in 1967, an Arab summit conference was held in Khartoum.

He added that if the Arab leaders agree to convene a summit, it will be necessary for the Arab foreign ministers to meet as soon as possible to prepare for the summit. Mahmud Riyad said he will carry out urgent contacts with some Arab capitals regarding the situation.

The emergency meeting of the Arab League was preceded by intensive contacts carried out by the Arab League secretary general with several Arab ambassadors regarding the developments in the situation. He met with YAR Ambassador in Cairo Hasan as-Sahuli and with Somali Ambassador Abdulrahim Abby Farah.

The PDRY, Iraqi and Algerian delegates to the Arab League did not attend today's meeting.

Riyad Messages to Arab States

NC161919Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad has sent messages to the Arab foreign ministers containing the proposal he received from YAR Chairman al-Ghashimi calling on the Arab kings and presidents to hold a summit conference to restore the effectiveness and positiveness of Arab solidarity and to stand against the Israeli aggression on the Arab nation in general and Lebanon and the Palestinian resistance in particular. In his messages, Riyad emphasizes the YAR chairman's call for an Arab summit conference be held at a time and place to be agreed upon.

His excellency also pointed out that Cairo or any other Arab capital can host such a meeting for consultations among Arab leaders.

The Arab League secretary general asked the Arab foreign ministers to send their views in this respect to the Arab League Secretariat General.

AS-SA'IQAH COMMAND STATEMENT ON ISRAELI ATTACK

JN161723Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1355 GMT 16 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 16 March--The As-Sa'iqah General Command has denounced the Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon and described it as one of a series of criminal and treacherous acts carried out by the Zionist military establishment to subjugate the region and impose imperialist and Israeli conditions.

A responsible source at the As-Sa'iqah General Command today announced that the As-Sa'iqah forces, together with the Palestinian revolution forces firmly and steadfastedly confronting this criminal aggression, affirm beyond all doubt that the initiative is still in the hands of the Palestinian revolution and it is capable more than ever of replying as it has before in the heart of the Zionist entity. The following is the text of the statement by the responsible source:

The Zionist racists are continuing their treacherous aggression against southern Lebanon. Their offensive is aimed against the Lebanese villages and the Palestinian camps located on the territory of fraternal Lebanon. Their gangs and officials compete in holding press conferences to justify this aggression and to praise the role played by the killers and hirelings in achieving imaginary victories over the unarmed sons of our people, including women, old people and children. Thus they violate the basic human principles and international charters ratified by the United Nations.

The As-Sa'iqah General Command, while pointing out to Arab and international public opinion their historic responsibility of firmly confronting the policy being practiced by the Zionist enemy since its occupation of our territories and its displacement of our people from their homeland with the aim of total annihilation of these people, reaffirms what it has previously stated--that all the efforts being exerted to attain a peaceful solution in the region are no more than deception and deceit as well as a flagrant capitulation to the arrogance of this deceitful enemy, which has established its policy on expansion and aggression. This enemy understands no language other than that of force and annihilation.

U.S. imperialism has aimed at making the disfigured Zionist entity an outpost to suppress and strike at liberation movements in our Arab homeland, and in Asia and Africa. Thus the great military and economic support it gives to Israel is used for this purpose alone.

The current Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon is but a link in the criminal and treacherous chain the Zionist military entity is carrying out to force the area to its knees and to impose imperialist and Zionist conditions on it. While firmly confronting this criminal aggression with other Palestinian forces, the As-Sa'iqah General Command affirms beyond all doubts that the initiative is still in the hands of the Palestinian revolution. It is capable more than ever of retaliating in the heart of Zionist entity. Our operations have generally been aimed against Zionist economic and military establishments. We have always avoided striking at civilians and nonmilitary establishments. However, because the enemy is going to extremes in its attempts to exterminate our people, including old men, women and children, we find ourselves forced to reconsider this stand. Let the criminal Zionists bear the consequences of their brutal acts.

We pledge to the masses of our Palestinian people wherever they are that we will continue our struggle with all our means so as to achieve the aims of our people--return to their homeland, self-determination and the establishment of their free and independent state on the soil of Palestine.

CTK INTERVIEWS QADDUMI ON ISRAELI ATTACK ON LEBANON

LD161948Y Prague CTK in English 1719 GMT 16 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Prague, March 16, CETEKA--"The aim of the Israeli attack on southern Lebanon is to destroy the Palestinian revolution, to occupy further Arab lands, especially in southern Lebanon, and to use the waters of the Litani River," Faruq Qaddumi told CETEKA today.

Faruq Qaddumi, head of the Political Department of the Palestine Liberation Organization, is in Czechoslovakia at the head of a PLO delegation.

He condemned the expansionist and aggressive policy of Israel, and stressed that Israel would never change its policy and would continue its aggression until it reaches its targets, despite the steps taken by Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat, who made concessions and set out on the road of capitulation. Israel continues the aggression, expansion, establishment of new settlements in occupied Arab lands, and the occupation of further territories.

"However, it cannot fully realize its aims, because the joint Palestinian and Lebanese resistance is strong. Israel can kill dozens of people and commit massacres, as the Palestinians and Lebanese have experienced, but despite all terrorist acts it cannot reach its target," Faruq Qaddumi said.

"We came to Czechoslovakia to exchange views on all events in the Arab area and neighboring regions, the Horn of Africa in particular," Faruq Qaddumi continued. "We exchange views and information, because we fight in the same ranks against a common enemy."

"Czechoslovak-Palestinian relations are based on common struggle against imperialism and Zionism.... The PLO has an office in Czechoslovakia, and Czechoslovakia grants material and political aid to the Palestinian people and shows internationalist solidarity with their just struggle. The Czechoslovak stand in the United Nations is well known. The friendship which links us with Czechoslovakia deepens and develops from day to day," he said.

"It is known that an aim of the imperialist U.S. and Israeli policy, as well as the policy of several Arab states, is a change of all progressive Arab regimes and elimination of Arab-Soviet friendship. The Soviet Union has a firm and resolute stand on the question of support for the Palestinian people and the PLO as their only legitimate representative. It grants them moral, material and political support at all international forums. It helps install a just peace in the Middle East and struggles for the resumption of the Geneva conference and implementation of relevant UN resolutions. There exists no just solution of this problem without the USSR, without the Palestinians, and without the exercising of their right to an independent Palestinian state," Faruq Qaddumi said in conclusion of the interview to CETEKA.

INA: SYRIAN STAND ON IRAQ SURPRISES PALESTINIANS

JN171033Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0958 GMT 17 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 17 March--Palestinian resistance and Lebanese nationalist movement circles have expressed their great astonishment over the wording of the statement released by SANA.

These circles said that they had expected the Syrian authorities to adopt a more serious attitude on the passage of the assistance. The responsible Iraqi quarters had informed the resistance and the nationalist movement since last Wednesday that they were ready to send immediate assistance if the Syrian authorities agreed to serious and practical arrangements through coordination among Iraq, Syria and the quarters concerned in the resistance and the nationalist movement in Lebanon.

These circles expressed the hope that the Syrian authorities would abandon their methods and facilitate the passage of the Iraqi assistance as soon as possible and in a manner which would enable the resistance and the nationalist movement to resist the criminal Zionist aggression.

IRAQI ENVOY, 'ARAFAT SPEAK AT BEIRUT CEREMONY

JN161452Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1335 GMT 16 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 16 March--Tariq 'Aziz, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command member, has said that Lebanon is being subjected to the most ferocious colonialist-Zionist plot aimed at striking at Lebanon's national unity and pan-Arab identity, and at liquidating the Palestinian Arab people and their revolution. This was contained in a speech 'Aziz delivered today at the conclusion of the ceremony on the first anniversary of the martyrdom of struggler Kamal Junblatt.

'Aziz said that the major intensified aggression being launched by the Zionist enemy against Lebanon is a grave and serious link in a chain of continuous conspiracy. 'Aziz praised the steadfastness of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples, their struggling spirit and their high morale in their courageous confrontation with the enemy forces. He expressed the hope that the Lebanese people in this vital part of the Arab nation will be able to achieve their aspirations of strengthening unity and the pan-Arab role.

Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, also spoke. He said that the fierce battles are still continuing and that the joint forces are still fighting for the aim for which Kamal Junblatt was martyred. These forces are confronting the imperialist-U.S. scheme on which Carter and Begin agreed after which they sent in their units backed by tanks, planes and naval forces to sweep southern Lebanon.

'Arafat said that the Lebanese fighter is fighting on the side of his brother, the Palestinian fighter, to safeguard Arab honor and dignity. We will foil the plot to establish an isolationist homeland. We will not lay down our rifles.

'Arafat said that in Al-Awza'i, a suburb south of Beirut, alone there were 26 martyrs and (50) civilian wounded as a result of bombardment by Zionist planes.

Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, denounced the Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon in a speech made on behalf of the Lebanese nationalist movement. He said that the Lebanese nationalist movement will not abandon the Palestinian revolution whatever the cost. The Lebanese nationalist movement will remain loyal to Kamal Junblatt's mission despite the tremendous pressure.

Junblatt said that the anniversary of the assassination of Kamal Junblatt coincides today with the desperate attempt by Zionism, imperialism and the prosettlement regimes to assassinate the Palestinian resistance.

Speeches were made at the ceremony on behalf of the Soviet Communist Party, the Algerian National Liberation Front, the Italian Communist Party, the DRV, Libya, the PDRY, Cuba, the Council of Peace and Solidarity, and the World Youth Federation.

PALESTINIAN SPOKESMAN REPORTS ON LEBANESE FIGHTING

NC161545Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1453 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 16 March--A Palestinian military source has stated that the Israeli attack is now concentrated on two main lines: the At-Tayyibah-Al-Qantarah-Al-Ghanduriyah line and the Bint Jubayl-(Yamun)-(Tilbin) line.

The source said that in their attack on these two lines the Israeli forces were using armored cars supported by heavy artillery.

The Palestinian military source said that strong resistance to the concentrated offensive has resulted in the destruction of seven tanks near the town of at-Tayyibah. The source said that at the same time the attack was continuing on the forests around the town of (Al-Hadathah). He described the fighting in this area as fierce. He said the joint Palestinian-Lebanese forces have inflicted many losses in the ranks of the attackers.

A Palestinian military spokesman said a short time ago that the ar-Rashidiyah refugee camp near the city of Tyre was being subjected to strong Israeli shelling [qasf] aimed at the residential installations in the camp.

The spokesman said that the wide-scale operations being carried out by the Israeli forces on all lines in southern Lebanon were the best proof of the falsehood of the Israeli allegations that the attack had ended.

The spokesman said the Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist forces were fiercely continuing to confront the Israeli forces, who were trying to continue their advance.

The spokesman said intense Israeli air raids, in which over 60 planes were participating, continued in the area of the battles. At the same time, the attack on the town of (Al-Hadathah) with infantry forces and tanks was also continuing.

He said that the attack was meeting violent resistance and the Israeli infantry forces sustained a number of losses. Three tanks were also hit. The strong resistance to the attack launched by the Israeli forces on the town of Bayt Yahun at 1330 today, in which tanks and heavy artillery were used, resulted in several losses in the ranks of the attacking forces. The spokesman did not specify the size of the losses.

A military communique issued by the joint command a short time ago said that a heavy rocket [sawarikh] unit belonging to the joint Palestinian-Lebanese forces, had shelled the Israeli concentrations in the Tayr Harfa-(Jisr Al-Hamra') position and the town of An-Naqurah, scoring direct hits. He said that the Israeli vehicles at An-Naqurah caught fire.

WAFA Sums Up Operations

JN170934Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0918 GMT 17 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 17 March--In a report about the military situation up to 0900, the Palestinian news agency [WAFA] reports that the advance detachments of the joint forces at dawn today clashed with the enemy concentrations in the Kawkaba, Rashayya al-Fukhkhar and Bra'shit triangle in the Al-'Urqub area.

The report indicates that the enemy fighter planes flew over the joint forces' positions along the central and eastern sectors as well as over Arnun, south of An-Nabatiyah, and Ghanduriyah and Tibnin in the northern part of the central sector. The ground resistance prevented the enemy planes from approaching their targets.

The report also indicated that since 0700 hours, enemy artillery has been intensively shelling An-Nabatiyah, Al-Jurmuq and Kafr Rumman and the road junctions in this area in order to destroy the communications routes.

The report points out that fighting was still in progress up to 0900 hours around Tibnin, which has been attacked by tanks since last night.

AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION CONFERENCE HELD IN CAIRO

NC151306 [Editorial Report NC] Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic at 0900 GMT on 15 March begins a live relay from the Egyptian People's Assembly in Cairo, where Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak is to open the second African Parliamentary Union conference on behalf of President Anwar as-Sadat. The announcer says that Prime Minister Mamduh Salim and Egyptian People's Assembly Speaker Sayyid Mar'i are also present.

At 0910 GMT Sayyid Mar'i delivers a 5-minute speech in which he recalls Egypt's ties with Africa from ancient times. He points out that "this conference is considered an embodiment of these ties and a determination to consolidate the ties between the African parliaments." He says "there are immense opportunities for us to exploit the human and material resources in our continent" in order "to fight backwardness in our countries and raise them to a level befitting the 20th century." He points out that comprehensive development requires political stability to enable each country to raise the standard of living of its people. He also says that all problems in the African Continent must be solved by peaceful means.

At 0916 GMT, Philip (Yasyeh), head of the Ivory Coast delegation and chairman of the conference, delivers a 38-minute speech in French, which is superimposed by an Arabic translation on the 872 KHZ frequency and by an English translation on the 557 KHZ frequency. (Yesyeh) says the African Parliamentary Union has defined for itself the aim of establishing permanent peace through dialog, nonalinement and peaceful coexistence. He says "it is our duty to use all means to bring about the success of dialog among nations for the sake of a world dominated by peace and prosperity." Defining the elements of peace, he says that they lie in "the elimination of inequality among nations and in the struggle against all forms of violence, such as wars, armaments races and attacks on the freedom and security of citizens."

At 0955 GMT Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak begins a speech in which he welcomes the delegates on behalf of President Anwar as-Sadat and the people of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

He says that "it augurs well that their union has been born at a time when Egypt is undergoing a democratic experiment in which the will of the people is being strengthened through the establishment of various political institutions." He says that "the Egyptian People's Assembly is assuming a great responsibility" to promote the democratic experiment in Egypt.

Mubarak says: "We are still facing great challenges along the path of freedom and progress. We do not harbor grudges or hatred against anybody." He says: "We all stand in one line against foreign intervention, whatever its sources, because intervention always takes place at our expense and not in our interest." Mubarak calls for the settlement of conflicts in Africa peacefully and through dialog.

Mubarak adds: "We look forward to the settlement of matters in the Horn of Africa as soon as possible and to the pressures which are causing the rift in this part of the continent to be eliminated so that economic and social progress can be achieved. This is the real challenge that we are facing. We cannot feel comfortable as we see the deteriorating situation in the south of the continent, where the racist regimes persist in challenging the will of the people, who are the rightful owners. If these regimes believe that they can pursue their policy of imposing white rule on the African majority, we all have to stand firm against this twisted logic and all its resulting consequences."

Mubarak continues: "We cannot possibly stand idly by in the face of what Ian Smith is doing against thefraternal African states." "Therefore, we stand with our full hearts alongside the people of Zambia and alongside President Kenneth Kaunda in his resistance to Ian Smith's illegal regime."

Mubarak says the Egyptian people cherish the support the African states are giving them in the battles they are waging for the liberation of their occupied land and for the African states' siding with the Palestinian people. He adds: "The Palestinian people are trying to exercise their right to self-determination away from all forms of oppression." Mubarak also says that the African states "were among the pioneers of the supporters of President Anwar as-Sadat's peace initiative."

"We Africans seek peace and construction and we are against destruction" because "we want to build the real foundations of our independence which we have wrenched away after a bitter struggle."

Mubarak continues: "We are engaged in the battle of peace with the same ferocity with which we waged the 1973 October war." He adds that despite all the obstacles, "we intend to proceed along this path and we shall never hesitate because we have always upheld the conviction that peace is the most noble cause that man can believe in." He says the drive for peace will succeed because God Almighty created man to build and not to kill or destroy.

"The events of the past few days show how important it is that an overall settlement of the conflict be reached." Mubarak says that the whole problem will be uprooted if the Palestinian people are given the right to self-determination and to establish a state on their land. "To overlook this established fact will bring nothing but more acts of despair and frustration and the continuation of the conflict." He says that we all know that violence breeds more violence.

Following the conclusion of his speech, the Egyptian vice president announces the opening of the conference. The live relay ends at 1016 GMT.

Conference Evening Session

NC152137Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] President Anwar as-Sadat will meet at noon tomorrow with the heads of the delegations participating in the second African Parliamentary Union conference, which is currently meeting in Cairo. At the second session this evening, the conference decided to form three committees to study the subjects submitted to it. These are the political and economic committee, the financial committee and the administrative committee. The committees will begin their activities at 0900 tomorrow. At 1700 the conference will hold a general session to discuss the studies submitted by the committees.

During the second session the conference approved the agenda. It also approved acceptance of the membership of Algeria, the Gambia, Sierre Leone and Morocco at the conference. The conference agreed that the third African Parliamentary Union conference should be held in Morocco, at the request of that country.

During the same session, Egyptian delegate Muhammad Daqruri spoke. He indicated that Africa desires that the conference will fulfill the hopes pinned on it. The president of the Arab Parliamentary Union, Bahjat at-Talhuni, said that great activities can be achieved by joint will.

The Zairian representative spoke next. He conveyed greetings to President Anwar as-Sadat and the Egyptian people from the people of Zaire. He praised President as-Sadat's initiative, describing it as an important act to solve the Middle East problem. He called on the countries of the African Continent to cooperate with each other so that peace will prevail among the African brothers.

The president of the Moroccan National Assembly then spoke. He pointed out that the African Continent is seeking justice, freedom and peace. He praised the Egyptian stand on liberation and the safeguarding of democracy. He was followed by the Gambian delegate, who urged that support be given to African states. He demanded the Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and recognition of the Palestinian people's right to establish their state. He expressed his country's support for UN Resolution 242 and for President Anwar as-Sadat's peace initiative.

The African Parliamentary Union's general rapporteur spoke. He explained the union's draft statutes defining the union's procedures.

Conference Issues Resolutions

NC162013Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] At the final session this evening, the second conference of the African Parliamentary Union approved five resolutions:

The African Parliamentary Union, which has been concerned about the reports of the Israeli aggression in Lebanon, draws the attention of world parliaments to the serious situation created by the Israeli aggression, which represents a violation of Lebanon's sovereignty and a threat to the Palestinain people's legitimate rights as defined by the UN General Assembly resolutions--a matter which impedes the efforts to establish a just and durable peace in the area. The African Parliamentary Union condemns this aggression against Lebanon, which is aimed only at exterminating the Palestinian people. The union calls for the immediate withdrawal of the armed Israeli force from Lebanese territory.

Regarding foreign interference in the African Continent, the conference approved a resolution underlining the need for the African states to follow the policy of nonalinement and positive neutrality. The conference strongly condemns the interference of mercenaries in African affairs and calls for the withdrawal of foreign forces from the territories of the continent.

In its resolution, the African Parliamentary Union emphasizes the right of every state to choose the social, economic and political system that is appropriate for its people. At the same time, the union calls on the international community, and particularly America and the Soviet Union, to extend aid to the African states and help them achieve prosperity without imposing conditions or entering into regional conflicts.

The African Parliamentary Union adopted a special resolution on racial discrimination in Africa. It appeals to all African states and the international community to continue their support for the peoples of South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Regarding Middle East policy, the African Parliamentary Union has adopted a resolution in which it expresses extreme concern about Israel's intransigent policy and its expansionist aims as well as its refusal to recognize the Palestinian people's right to self determination. It demands a just solution in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 242 of 1967, UN General Assembly Resolution 3236 and the resolutions which were endorsed by the International Parliamentary Union Conference held in Sofia in September 1977. At the same time, the union affirms its support for the Arab confrontation states and the Palestinian people in their struggle to regain their lands. It appeals to all African states and the international community to support all the initiatives and efforts that are being exerted to establish a just and durable peace in this part of the world.

The conference adopted a special resolution on disputes among African states. It affirmed its commitment to the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of other states. It affirmed, moreover, the need to settle the differences among the fraternal African states through direct dialog or the mediation of the OAU.

The conference strongly condemned the policy of kidnaping civilians and using them as hostages for political purposes. The conference supports the efforts that are being made to solve these disputes in a manner that would guarantee the integrity of every state.

The conference recommended that the subject of economic development in Africa should be a major topic at the next meetings of the African Parliamentary Union Conference which will be held in Rabat in 1979.

INA: WEST BANK VEHICLE DESTROYED, OCCUPANTS KILLED

JN161540Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1520 GMT 16 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 16 March--The Arab fedayeen this morning destroyed an enemy military vehicle on the Nabulus-Tulkarm highway [West Bank] and killed the seven occupants. A Palestinian military communique said today that the fedayeen attacked the vehicle with handgrenades and machineguns, destroyed it and killed its occupants.

KUWAIT

AMIR SENDS MESSAGES ON LEBANON TO SARKIS, 'ARAFAT

LD161048Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The amir has sent a cable to his brother President Ilyas Sarkis of Lebanon, condemning the savage attacks by the Israeli forces in the south of Lebanon and stressing Kuwait's commitment to, and cooperation in, safeguarding the unity of Lebanon and the sovereignty of its territory.

His highness also sent a cable to the PLO chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, Yasir 'Arafat, in reply to his cable in which he explained the latest developments in the Israeli savage attack in southern Lebanon. The amir stressed the need to work for the unity or Arab ranks to stand up to these Israeli aggressions and defiances, stressing Kuwait's constant support for the struggle of the people of Palestine to obtain their legitimate rights.

MINISTER OF STATE COMMENTS ON ISRAELI ACTION

LD161806Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-Aziz Husayn has stated that Kuwait is following with extreme concern the news of the attack by the Israeli armed forces on southern Lebanon and also their persecution of Lebanese citizens and Palestinian refugees who have been made homeless by the Israeli occupation of their homeland. This aggression, he added, took place within the sight and hearing of the whole world and is proof of the terroristic nature of the racialist entity that exists on the Palestinian Arab territory and reaffirms this entity's trend toward a war of annihilation against a people who are fighting their legitimate battle for the return to their homeland.

The minister said in a statement to KUNA that the condoning by the world powers of what has happened and is happening in southern Lebanon encourages the Zionist entity to persist in its aggressive and expansionist measures. Therefore, Kuwait calls upon these influential powers to use their effective offices to check this policy, which will have its consequences for world peace and security. It also calls upon them to halt their material and moral support for the state of occupation in Palestine and to work for the establishment of a just peace in the region. Kuwait also calls upon the Arab world with all its states to forget its differences and to realize the danger that is threatening it, also to work united in facing the dangerous destiny threatening it. Kuwait, he added, is in constant contact with the Lebanese Government, the PLO, the Kuwaiti UN representative, and sister Arab countries for further coordination and exchange of viewpoints.

MINISTER SEES FORCE AS ONLY SOLUTION IN MIDEAST

LD161840Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpts] Minister of AWQAF and Islamic affairs Yusuf Jasim al-Hajji has stated that events and the tragic Israeli aggression against the Arab peoples are following so fast in succession that one cannot keep silent, especially now that Israel has used arms as its logic and force as a means of imposing its presence on the Arab world.

The minister says in a statement he released today that the savage war Israel has been waging since yesterday against Lebanon--occupying Lebanese territory, killing hundreds of civilians, men, women and children, and destroying villages, camps and dwellings--this ugly aggressive war which Israel has been waging means the Arabs must adopt promptly an official decisive stand which is clear to Israel. By its sinful aggression on Lebanon and by actually occupying Lebanese territory, Israel has proved to all the world that it does not seek peace, it seeks only expansion and aggression. Its constant and desperate efforts to destroy the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian people are part of its sinful colonialist plan against the Arab and Islamic existence. It is seeking to realize its ambitions and dreams in the Arab-Moslem area, being driven on by the great colonialist powers.

Our battle, as Arab and Moslem peoples, with Israel is long and extensive. Israel's treacherous aggression against the people of Lebanon and the Palestinains in Lebanon will not be the end of this battle. This aggression has opened the eyes of allof us to the fact that neither good intentions nor sincerity in establishing peace on the Arab-Moslem land can quench the rancor of Israel.

Jerusalem, the Aqsa Mosque, Sinai, Golan, the West Bank, southern Lebanon--all are still in the hands of Israel, which is persisting in its attempt to establish the legitimacy of its presence there. We have no alternative but to realize that such action by Israel can only be confronted with similar action. This is the only way. The minister calls for the proper preparation of our youth so that they can face the near and distant future and confront aggression. Force [quwwah] and the Arab right are the only weapons the Arabs have against Israel. This is the path to just peace based on right, justice and dignity.

YEMEN--PDRY

ARAB SOLIDARITY AGAINST ISRAEL CALLED FOR

ID161907Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Mar LD/EA

[Statement issued by PDRY Council of Ministers on 16 March]

[Text] The territory of Lebanon and particularly of southern Lebanon has since dawn yesterday, Wedensday, been the target of an extensive Zionist attack, which has reached as far as outskirts of the capital, Beirut, and in which the Israeli enemy is deploying more than 25,000 troops with various land, sea and air weapons with the aim of occupying southern Lebanon, striking at the bases of the rsistance forces, destroying the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian people, to improve his chances of setting up a vassal entity in southern Lebanon.

These barbarous military actions have left behind savage destruction and hundreds of dead and wounded among the Arab Palestinian and Lebanese people in the towns and camps. These operations are the first of their kind since the war of October 1973. The Israeli enemy embarked upon this savage action with the overt and comprehensive support of international imperialism, having fully appreciated the blow directed against the body of Arab solidarity by the Egyptian regime embarking upon the road of separate solutions with the Zionist foe. Accordingly the Zionists have launched a savage aggressive war against the territory and people of Arab Lebanon and against the Palestinian people.

The PDRY is pained at the damage the savage Israeli attack has done to the towns and villages of southern Lebanon and to the peaceful Palestinian camps, and strongly condemns this destructive fascist attack. It calls upon the Arab peoples and governments to do their national and patriotic duty on this historic occasion to avert the threat it poses. It calls upon the freedom and peace-loving peoples and governments of the world to stand by the heroic Arab Palestinian people. The government and people of Democratic Yemen at this decisive moment hail the stout steadfastness of the Palestinian people led by the PLO. It also hails the steadfastness of the Lebanese people and their patriotic movement in the face of this savage Israeli attack and declares its sincere fraternal solidarity for the repulsing of this aggression.

PRIME MINISTER SENDS MESSAGE ON RELATIONS TO KOSYGIN

LD152131Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Abd al'aziz ad-Dali, the PDRY ambassador in Moscow, last night delivered a message from brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the Politburo and chairman of the Council of Ministers, addressed to Comrade Alekxey Kosygin, member of the CPSU Politburo and chairman of the Council of Ministers, connected with cooperation and friendly relations between the two friendly countries. The message was delivered during the ZQA meeting in the Kremlin between the brother ambassador and Comrade Arkhipov, deputy chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers.

YEMEN-YAR

ARAB SUMMIT, SECURITY COUNCIL SESSION CALLED FOR

NC161326Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1255 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Text] San'a, 16 March--Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, chairman of the Command Council and commander in chief of the YAR Armed Forces, has sent an urgent telegram to the Arab kings and presidents urging them to convene an emergency Arab summit conference to discuss the Israeli attack on Lebanon and the Palestinian resistance and also to consult on the measures which should be taken to halt Israeli tyranny and to lay down a unified strategy for the present and the future. Lieutenant Colonel al-Ghashmi proposed that Cairo, San'a, Baghdad, Tripoli, Riyadh or any other Arab capital be the venue of the conference. The following is the text of the telegram:

At these critical moments our Arab nation is being subjected to the most obnoxious aggressions and barbaric attacks. Fraternal Lebanon's sovereignty is being violated by the Zionist and racist regime, which has torpedoed all the peace opportunities and rejected all calls for a just and overall solution. I beseech you in the name of God and your conscience to do whatever you can to convene an emergency summit meeting to restore the unity, solidarity and efficacy of the Arab ranks. Cairo, San'a, Tripoli, Riyadh, Baghdad or any other Arab capital can always be the venue for such a blessed meeting. Please accept the expressions of my sincere amity and high esteem.

The Foreign Ministry has announced that the YAR chief UN delegate has requested the Security Council chairman to convene an emergency session to discuss the Israeli aggression. Furthermore, the YAR Foreign Ministry has summoned the Arab ambassadors accredited to San'a. Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ahmad Haydar has informed the ambassadors of the steps which the YAR Government has taken in this respect.

AS-SADAT TO CONVENE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING

NC161516Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The radio correspondent has learned that President Anwar as-Sadat is following the events in the situation as they occur regarding the Israeli interference in southern Lebanon and following the occurrence of the painful events. The radio correspondent has learned that President Anwar as-Sadat will convene a meeting of the National Security Council.

AS-SADAT RECEIVES AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS

NC161345Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1331 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 March--At 1330 today President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat received in Al-Qanatir al-Khayriyah members of the African Parliamentary Union office which is currently holding its conference in Cairo. The meeting was attended by Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, Speaker of the People's Assembly Engineer Sayyid Mar'i and 20 members of the union office staff.

Text of As-Sadat Speech

NC162223Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2038 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 March--President Anwar as-Sadat delivered a speech during his reception of the members of the African Parliamentary Union office today. The following is the text of the speech:

Dear brothers: I must begin by apologizing for being about half an hour late because I have been following the very delicate situation that has arisen in this area in the wake of the regrettable new incidents in Lebanon during the past 2 days.

I have been following your meetings because the African parliaments have established a union for the first time and are presenting to the world an example of brothers who are uniting on all levels. The parliamentary level is very important in the creation of an African unity. We thank God that we have reached this point in the development of the OAU. I would like you to know that here in Cairo you have a fraternal nation and a fraternal capital that takes pride in being an African capital just as it takes pride in being an Arab capital.

I take this opportunity to thank you for the very kind words the speaker of the Ivoirian parliament has spoken about the initiative and about me personally. I also take this opportunity to ask you to convey to the kings and presidents of your states my very good wishes and hope that unified efforts will create for all of us an extremely solid edifice of African unity.

I would also like for you to convey to them our profound gratitude for the very strong support our brothers in Africa have been giving to the Arab cause. Our cause is the cause of justness, the cause of freedom and the cause of not seizing the land of others by force. We will never forget Africa's solidarity with us in the Arab world. Therefore, I tell you, as I said at the beginning, that we in Egypt shall always be very proud of being an African capital just as we are proud of being an Arab capital.

Well, you are visiting Cairo, your African capital, at a very difficult time. A few days ago this area experienced extremely regrettable incidents that have now reached their climax in the offensive Israel has carried out against southern Lebanon and in its return to the policy of imposing conditions through occupying the land of others by force and killing innocent civilians under the slogan of security. We have condemned the killing of Israeli civilians as vigorously as we have condemned Israel's killing of Arab civilians, occupation of southern Lebanon and imposition of its conditions.

Allow me to say this: We have a very clear stand in this respect--that is, that we do not in any way approve of the fact that security requires occupation of the land of others or violation of their sovereignty. We shall continue to exert the utmost efforts to achieve a peaceful solution.

I would like you to convey to my brother kings and heads of state that Egypt will always fight for the principles which we all indeed fought for before and obtained our freedom.

In the Arab-Israeli conflict, Israel must know that force will not provide security, that the occupation of the territory of others will not provide security and that the violation of the sovereignty of others will not provide security. Security can be [illegible] through neighborly relations, not through the use of force. If Israel has [illegible]day, we all have power also. Since I began my iniviative I have said that we [illegible] down as civilized people to discuss any issues we need to confront, not resort to the use of force.

Egypt condemns the actions Israel has carried out during the last 2 days. We will continue to condemn such actions. We will watch what happens in the very near future. We must plan to continue [the peace process] and draw up our plans in this regard. I will call for the convocation of the National Security Council for this purpose. I believe we had reached a point where we were about to solve the whole problem peacefully. When Israel resorts again to the use of force, to the occupation of the territory of others by force and to dictating its conditions, we denounce this as we denounced it before and will denounce it in the future.

Israel must realize that the time of dictating conditions has gone. Israel must also know that bloodshed will not solve problems and that bloodshed will not lead to the achievement of peace in this area. Israel must finally know that solving the Palestinian problem is the first sound move for the establishment of peace in our area. I thank you for coming here. Cairo will always be proud of the fact that you have chosen it as the African capital for holding your conference. I take this opportunity to ask you to convey to my brother kings and heads of state my greetings and profound gratitude for their African solidarity.

KAMIL HOLDS CONTACTS WITH VARIOUS AMBASSADORS

Meets With U.S., PRC Ambassadors

NC161401Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 March--Minister of Foreign Affairs Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil today continued his intensive contacts with the ambassadors of the five permanent member states of the Security Council on the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon.

The foreign minister stressed the necessity for these five states to condemn the aggression and immediately intervene to stop the aggression and make the Israeli forces withdraw from southern Lebanon. He said there is a need to convene the Security Council to discuss this aggression so that the international community assume its responsibility, particularly the five states.

In this context, Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil met with U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Hermann Eilts and later with Chinese Ambassador in Cairo Yao Kuang. He is due to meet tonight with the ambassadors of the Soviet Union and Canada in Cairo for the same purpose.

Sees Soviet, Canadian Ambassadors

NC161856Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil this evening continued his meetings with the representatives of the UN Security Council member states. He met with the Soviet and Canadian ambassadors to ask them to intervene immediately to halt the aggression against Lebanon and have Israel withdraw from Lebanese territory.

Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Dr Ahmad 'Uthman held a meeting with the African states' ambassadors in Cairo and drew their attention to the seriousness of the situation resulting from the Israeli aggression. He also asked them to denounce the aggression and act both inside and outside the United Nations to condemn Israel and support the Palestinian people's just struggle.

Further Details

NC162052Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2025 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 March--MENA has learned that Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil, during his meeting with the Soviet ambassador in Cairo this evening, emphasized the Soviet Union's responsibility regarding the serious situation in Lebanon resulting from the Israeli aggression on the grounds that the Soviet Union is one of the five big powers and is a cochairman of the Geneva Middle East peace conference.

The foreign minister also raised with the Soviet ambassador the unfounded propaganda campaign the Soviet Union has been launching against Egypt. The minister emphasized that Egypt does not approve of anyone, whoever he may be, casting doubt on its sincere efforts to establish a total, lasting and just peace in the Middle East on the basis of complete Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and the Palestinian people's regaining their legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination.

It has been learned that during his meeting with the Canadian, Chinese and Soviet ambassadors today, Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil emphasized the need for their states to assume their responsibilibities to achieve immediate Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

Meetings With Other Envoys

NC162302Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2131 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 March--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil this evening summoned the African states' ambassadors in Cairo to inform them of the serious situation in Lebanon resulting from the Israeli aggression. The meeting was attended by Ahmad Sidqi, director of the African Department.

Ambassador Ahmad 'Uthman, Foreign Ministry under secretary for African affairs, informed the Africans attending the meeting of the serious situation resulting from the Israeli aggression and the effect it will have on peace in the Middle East. He also asked them to condemn the aggression and to work both inside and outside the United Nations for condemnation of the aggression to demand that Israel withdraw its forces from Lebanese territories immediately and to support the Palestinian people in their just struggle to regain their legitimate rights.

Within the framework of the contacts Egypt is carrying out regarding the Israeli aggression and at the request of Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil, Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Salah Hasan has received the ambassadors of Venezuela, India and Kuwait and the Bolivian charge d'affaires in Cairo. He drew their attention to the seriousness of the situation resulting from the aggression against southern Lebanon and communicated Egypt's request to them that this military aggression be condemned and that Israel be asked to withdraw its forces from Lebanese territory immediately and to change its aggressive course to the path that will help to establish a total, just peace in the area--the path started by Egypt with President as-Sadat's initiative.

The Foreign Ministry will continue its contacts with the rest of the world's ambassadors in the next few hours in order to work for condemning the Israeli aggression and for achieving an immediate withdrawal of the Israeli forces from southern Lebanon.

Israeli Withdrawal Demanded

NC170725Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1659 GMT 17 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 17 March--AL-AHRAM reports today that during yesterday's meeting with Hermann Eilts, the U.S. ambassador in Cairo, Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil told him that Egypt insists on Israel's immediate withdrawal from southern Lebanon and on ending the aggression against the Lebanese and Palestinian people. Kamil also informed Eilts of Egypt's request that the United States, in its capacity as one of the two superpowers, adopt a frank stand on the need for Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

MENA REPORTS U.S. EFFORTS TO REACH AGREEMENT

NC161053Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpts] Beirut, 16 March--Informed Lebanese sources have revealed to the MENA correspondent in Beirut that the United States has begun intensive efforts to bring about an agreement under which the Israeli forces will withdraw from the south in return for the withdrawal of the Palestinians 10 km from the Lebanese-Israeli border. It has been learned that U.S. Ambassador in Lebanon Richard Parker informed high-ranking Lebanese officials of these efforts last night.

MENA has learned that Lebanon has so far not asked for a Security Council meeting to discuss the Israeli aggression in anticipation of the outcome of these U.S. efforts. On the other hand, Lebanon is afraid that the Security Council will not be able to issue a clear resolution calling on Israel to withdraw its forces since the United States might veto such a resolution.

CAIRO MEDIA CONTINUES TO COMMENT ON ISRAELI ATTACK

Cairo Press Comment

LD170337Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0010 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD

[Press review]

[Text] Cairo, 16 March--Cairo papers report in banner headlines in their Friday issues President as-Sadat statement during his meeting with heads of African parliamentary delegations that "Israel will not be able to dictate its conditions by force and through bloodshed in Lebanon. We will not accept the security theory which is based on the occupation of land by force." The papers also highlight President as-Sadat's declaration that Egypt condemns Israel's action in Lebanon and that "the solution of the Palestinian problem is the basis for the achievement of peace."

The papers focus their attention on reports of Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon and the Arab and international reaction to it as well as on the contacts taking place on all levels in connection with the situation in Lebanon following the Israeli aggression. The papers point to the large-scale Egyptian movement to stop the continued Israeli aggression against Lebanese territory and [words indistinct] immediate withdrawal from southern Lebanon. The papers devote their articles to the Israeli aggression against southen Lebanon.

AL-AHRAM refers to Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin's claim that the invading Israel forces will retain an area of 1,000 square km in southern Lebanon which belongs to nobody. The paper says this implies that Israel will gain more cards to its credit in the pressure and bargaining over the peace process in the area. The Arab side will lose cards.

AL-AHRAM expresses doubts regarding the position of the major powers. It says that the suspicious silence that characterize the attitude of these countries toward the violation of a UN member state arouses great suspicions regarding what is happening in Lebanon.

The paper says that no condemnation of the Israeli aggression was issued by the U.S. Government and that the Soviet Union only made cheap accusations, while certain Arab countries which have for long been boasting with slogans are standing idly by. Lebanon has not asked for a Security Council meeting despite the attack on it and in spite of Egypt's request for urgent measures by the Security Council to condemn and halt aggression.

In conclusion, the paper stresses the importance of issuing a Security Council resolution condemning the aggression in view of the potential dangers behind this operation and in view of Israeli precedents that considered every Arab land it took by force as belonging to nobody.

Writing on the same subject, AL-AKHBAR says that the Israeli attack on Lebanon has not stopped and has not yet achieved its objectives of destruction and devastation. The attack, which has entered its second day, is meeting with stiff resistance and the Palestinians are still engaging the Israelis in battles which Israeli officials have admitted to be heavy.

The paper points to news agency reports that the Palestinian resistance is alone standing fast in the face of the fierce attack in which Israel has thrown thousands of its forces in air, land and sea battles. The paper also refers to agency reports that although Yasir 'Arafat has appealed to Syria to intervene on the side of the Palestinians, Syria has so far shown no signs that it is likely to take such a step. This Syrian stand, it says, is astonishing and raises questions. Political commentatorshave given different interpretations to this stand but they all point accusing fingers at Syria.

The paper adds: Hafiz al-Asad, who before the Israeli attack declared that in case of any aggression against the Palestinians, Syria would not remain idle, declared without shame after the attack took place that he has nothing to do with the battle. On their part the Israelis have also confirmed that Syria has not been involved in resisting the attack and has praised its stand.

Continuing, AL-AKHBAR says: The matter needs no explanation. The attitude of Al-Asad and the Syrian Ba'th Party toward the Palestinians is based on expelling the Palestinians from their positions so that the Syrian deterrent forces can occupy Lebanon.

The paper adds: We do not understand how Yasir 'Arafat was deceived and did not realize this fact. He joined the gang of rejectionists who spread lies and accusations regarding alleged liquidation, capitulation and treason. We wish Yasir 'Arafat would speak up and tell the people who are the liquidationists, capitulationists and traitors now that the attitude of Al-Asad and the Syrian Ba'th Party toward Lebanon and the Palestinians there has been exposed.

The paper continues: This is the Al-Asad to whom they assigned the leadership at their rejection conference--to take command of the Arab battle and to defend the Arab cause. This is the truth about the rejection band and the rejectionists Al-Qadhdhafi, Boumediene and that man in southern Yemen. Where are they now and what have they done toward the attack on Lebanon and toward what the Palestinians are today facing in Lebanon?

The paper says: What is happening in Lebanon is a mean and vicious conspiracy. The Israeli attack is only the first step toward implementing and achieving it. The primary objective of Al-Asad and the Syrian Ba'th Party is to evict the Palestinians from Lebanon. If Israel aims at occupying southern Lebanon, then Syria will occupy the rest of it. This is the conspiracy and its objective but we would like to assure Al-Asad and his Ba'th Party that his conspiracy will fail and that he and his Ba'th Party will go while the Palestinians and Lebanon remain.

Commenting on the same subject, AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the Israeli aggression against Lebanon is not in response to the fedayeen operation near Tel Aviv last Saturday. It is yet another serious step in the Zionist expansion plan. Israel's designs on the Litani River have been well known and declared for many years--since the emergence of the Zionist movement and since it drew up the boundaries of its ambitions in the Arab area.

The paper adds: This aggression is not in retaliation for the Tel Aviv operation. Rather it is yet another link in the Zionist plan to annihilate the Palestinian people, the plan whose principles were laid down by Herzl and whom Begin has been one of the most efficient to implement it since the massacre of Dayr Yasin and up to this day.

What is happening in Lebanon today is not a reprisal for the Tel Aviv operation and not as a consequence of it. It is a continuation of the Dayr Yasin massacre and the other aspect of it. It is now being perpetrated by Israel, the state that has the most up-to-date weapons and is a UN member.

But, AL-JUMHURIYAH asserts, Dayr Yasin cannot be repeated. Israel can no longer attack and do what it likes without meeting resistance, resistance that forced Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman to admit that his army did not go for a promenade. He admitted only half the truth. Weizman alleged that fighting had stopped while the Palestinian forces in southern Lebanon were fighting fierce and violent battles against the aggression although it is not part of their task to do so because being guerrilla forces, they were supposed to hide and disperse as the enemy attacked.

Concluding, the paper says: The Palestinian forces, however, decided to fight the battle and to turn it into another Karamah [battle in Jordan] 10 years after the first Karamah. They have done so in order to prove that the Israeli wars of annihilation will never achieve their objectives regardless of the forces that Isreal will mobilize for such wars and of the modern weapons that it possesses. It is also in order to prove that any Israeli aggression, however massive, is only a link in the chain of a vicious circle from which Israel can never emerge without recognizing the Palestinian people's right to establish their own independent state.

Cairo Radio Commentary

NC161550Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Fawzi Surur dommentary: "The Fifth Middle East War"]

[Excerpts] News agencies have reported that Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin, Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman, Chief of Staff Lt Gen Mordekhay Gur and a number of Israeli leaders traveled by helicopter over the areas which were captured by the Israeli invasion forces in southern Lebanon.

The question facing observers, world opinion, the United Nations and the Arab states themselves concerns the extent of the invasion forces' stay in the south in the wake of their military expedition against the Palestinians and Lebanese territory.

Statements by Begin, Weizman, Gur and the Israeli gererals indicate that the aim of the huge military expedition is the establishment of what they call a security zone some 7 to 10 km wide and 100 km long--that is, an area of 1,000 square km of Lebanese territory. And these generals have affirmed that the Israeli forces will remain in the south for an unlimited period. This frankly means that Israel is seeking to dominate the area, not to achieve security for itself, and that it has used the Tel Aviv operation as an excuse to achieve its strategic plans.

This also means that the Israeli settlements policy is now taking a new turn and that by the military expedition it is extending its long arm to wrest more Arab territory and establish new Israeli settlements on Lebanese Arab territory. Lebanon has always been a strategic goal which the imperialist and Zionist forces have tried to seize, particularly the sources of the Litani River, which have now been captured by the Israeli invasion forces and which are considered the main supplier of the water flowing to the south. This is required primarily for implementation of the Israeli development plans in the Negev and the other occupied Arab territories.

Thus, the dimensions of the new Israeli piracy against Lebanon have become completely clear. It is primarily aimed not at the Palestinian concentrations but at serving the objectives of the strategic expansion which is aimed at the establishment of greater Israel, which the imperialist and Zionist forces have been seeking to create from the beginning.

BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

NC161315Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1158 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 March--Belgian Foreign Minister Henri Simonet has stated that he held intensive and constructive talks in Cairo. During the talks he acquainted himself with the latest developments in the Middle East and with Egypt's view regarding the Egyptian-Israeli dialog and the possibility of resuming it in the future.

At a press conference today, the Belgian foreign minister said he will be returning home convinced that the Egyptian authorities want to resume the talks on certain acceptable bases. He said that Belgium supports and greatly appreciates President Anwar as-Sadat's initiative.

The Belgian foreign minister said that following his talks in Cairo, he is deeply convinced that President Anwar as-Sadat and the Egyptian officials want to find a solution to the Middle East crisis that will be acceptable to all the parties concerned. The Belgian foreign minister expressed hope that the Egyptian-Israeli talks will resume in the next few weeks for the sake of a permanent peace in the area and in the interest of all the world.

Answering a question on the Israeli aggression against Lebanon, the Belgian foreign minister said the events of the past few days in Tel Aviv and Lebanon will not help the peace efforts which are underway in light of President Anwar as-Sadat's initiative--efforts in which other parties are taking part and which are aimed at achieving a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East.

The Belgian foreign minister condemned all acts of violence, particularly during this period in which efforts are being exerted for a permanent peace in the area. He said the important factor at present is that both Egypt and Israel want to resume the talks. He explained that a comprehensive peace will stop all acts of violence.

The Belgian foreign minister affirmed that the European community does not view the Palestinian problem as a problem of refugees but as an issue of a people who have rights which must be considered. He refuted the allegations which deny that the Palestinian people exist and also deny that they have legitimate rights.

In answer to a question on his talks with President Anwar as-Sadat concerning recent events, the Belgian foreign minister said President as-Sadat is deeply concerned about what has happened in view of its effect on the peace efforts in the area. He expressed the belief that it is the duty of the world community to act to bring about the resumption of the talks and to see that they do not fail again.

Asked about the bases required for resuming the Middle East peace talks, the Belgian foreign minister said: These talks must be founded on agreed-upon bases so that they will continue and succeed. He said Belgium's role is to try to find a solution which will be acceptable to the majority of the Israelis regarding the Palestinians' rights.

Discussing the European Community's role in the peace efforts, the Belgian foreign minister said the European Community can express its view to everybody that it is necessary for each side to take the vital and necessary interests of the other side into consideration.

Kamil Invited To Visit Belgium

NC1617157 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1554 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 March--Belgian Foreign Minister Henri Simonet today invited Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil to visit Belgium. Kamil accepted the invitation. A date for the visit will be fixed through diplomatic channels.

Foreign Minister Leaves

NC1613177 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1248 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 March--Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs Henri Simonet left Cairo today at the end of a 4-day visit to Egypt during which he had discussions with Egyptian officials. The Belgian foreign minister also paid a brief visit to Luxor. He was seen off at the airport by Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil, a number of Foreign Ministry officials and Belgian Ambassador in Cairo Rene Panis.

AS-SADAT RECEIVES MOROCCAN PARLIAMENT SPEAKER

NC1617137 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 16 March--President Anwar as-Sadat received Moroccan parliament Speaker Dey Ould Sidi Baba today. The meeting was attended by Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and the Moroccan ambassador in Cairo, Abdellatif Laraki.

WAR MINISTER RETURNS TO CAIRO FROM PARIS

NC1521137 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2109 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 15 March--Deputy Prime Minister and War and War Production Minister Gen Muhammad al-Jamasi returned to Cairo from Paris this evening after signing a protocol for technical cooperation between France and the Arab Industrial Organization.

During his visit, General al-Jamasi reviewed with French officials the fields of military cooperation between Egypt and France.

MENA REPORTS ON IRAQI AID SHIPMENT THROUGH SYRIA

LD170142Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2335 GMT 16 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Mar--INA reported from Baghdad today that the Syrian regime has refused to allow the passage of Iraqi aid to the Palestinian resistance in southern Lebanon via Syrian territory.

The agency said that the Iraqi Foreign Ministry summoned the Syrian ambassador to Bagndad on Wednesday night and informed him of Iraq's wish to send arms, medical supplies and food to the Palestinian resistance in Lebanon on the overland route through Syrian territory.

The agency added that the Iraqi Foreign Ministry asked the Syrian ambassador to contact his government during the night and to obtain its answer and to convey it to the Foreign Ministry at any hour of the night.

However, the agency later retracted the item from its newscast.

Although INA retracted the report, the SYRIAN NEWS AGENCY, SANA, said tonight that the Iraqi Government had asked Syria to allow the dispatch of aid to the Palestinian resistance in Lebanon via its territory.

The agency said in a report carried by Damascus Radio that Syria informed the Iraqi Government that it welcomes any aid sent to the Palestinian resistance and that it is ready at any time to receive on the Syrian-Iraqi borders any equipment, ammunition, or volunteers and hand them over to the PLO.

Syria, SANA added, also told Iraq that if the Iraqi side wishes it to receive equipment and ammunition against receipts signed by the Syrian side, it will have no objection.

INA Report on Shipment

JN161815Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1735 GMT 16 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 16 March--The Syrian regime has refused to allow Iraqi aid to the Palestinian resistance in southern Lebanon to cross Syrian territory. The Iraqi Foreign Ministry summoned the Syrian ambassador yesterday evening, Wednesday, and conveyed to him the Iraqi Government's desire to send arms, ammunition, medicines and foodstuffs to the Palestinian resistance across Syrian territory. The Foreign Ministry asked the ambassador to contact his government last night so that an answer could be given to the Iraqi Foreign Ministry as soon as possible.

INA has learned that after midnight the Syrian ambassador conveyed to the Iraqi Foreign Ministry the (?Syrian) Government's reply. The text of the reply: The vehicles will be handed over at the Syrian border where [INA breaks off this item and at 1748 GMT announces that this item is replaced by a report on a UNESCO meeting in Paris.]

HAMMADI DRAWS OAU'S ATTENTION TO LEBANON SITUATION

JN162003Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1945 GMT 16 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 16 March--Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi sent a cable this evening to OAU Secretary General William Eteki drawing his attention to the serious situation resulting from the treacherous Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon.

Dr Hammadi said in his cable that this situation threatens world peace and security. He called on the OAU secretary general to have the OAU exert all its efforts for an immediate withdrawal of the forces of the Zionist enemy from Lebanese territory.

Dr Hammadi sent a similar cable to the Sri Lankan foreign minister in his capacity as chairman of the coordination bureau of the nonalined states. In his cable, Dr Hammadi pointed out to the Sri Lankan foreign minister the seriousness of the situation in the area in view of the escalation by the Zionist entity of its aggression against southern Lebanon. Dr Hammadi said: This situation requires an emergency session of the UN Security Council to discuss this question and put a decisive end to it.

Position Presented to Envoys

JN161957Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1910 GMT 16 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 16 March--The Iraqi Government has emphasized to the Arab, Soviet, Yugoslav and French ambassadors in Baghdad the need to give effective support to the Palestinian resistance. The Iraqi Government also voiced its strong denunciation and condemnation of the treacherous Zionist aggression against fraternal Lebanon. The Iraqi Government stressed the need to call for a meeting of the UN Security Council to issue a resolution demanding the immediate withdrawal of the Zionist forces and an end to the massacres perpetrated by these forces in Lebanon. The Iraqi demands came after the Foreign Ministry summoned the ambassadors this evening. The ministry summoned the Arab ambassadors first, discussed with them the serious situation created by the Zionist aggression against Lebanon, and informed them of Iraq's demand that the UN Security Council meet to call for the immediate Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory and of Iraq's demand that the Palestinian resistance be given effective assistance.

The ministry then summoned the ambassadors of the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia and France separately and informed each of them of Iraq's stand in support of calling an urgent meeting of the Security Council.

The ministry also summoned representatives of a number of Security Council member states and informed them of the serious situation that has arisen because of the Zionist aggression against the security, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon and because of the massacres committed by the Zionist forces against the struggling Lebanese people. The ministry requested the representatives to inform their governments of Iraq's stand that a Security Council meeting is necessary to condemn this aggression and take the necessary measures against it. In this regard, the ministry summoned the Kuwaiti ambassador in Baghdad and informed him of Iraq's position because Kuwait is a member of the Security Council.

PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY RETURNS TO BAGHDAD FROM LEBANON

JN161857Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 16 March--Presidential envoy Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and of the Ba'th Party National Command, returned to Baghdad this evening after conveying a verbal message from President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr to Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis.

During his stay in Lebanon, 'Aziz took part in the rally held in Beirut on the first anniversary of the martyrdom of Kamal Junblatt.

CP UPHOLDS PALESTINIAN UNITY, ASSAILS AS-SADAT POLICY

JN142037Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 14 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 14 March--The Iraqi Communist Party has stated that the Arab liberation movement is able, through Arab resources and capabilities, to confront the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary offensive and to foil it. In its political report approved at the meeting of the party Central Committee on 10 March, the party said that the Arab national liberation movement faced serious and acute difficulties during the past year. The report, published today by the party organ TARIQ ASH-SHA'B, deals with the serious line followed by Anwar as-Sadat in the interests of Zionism and against the national goals of Egypt and the Arab nation. The report adds that the results of As-Sadat's activities and talks with the Zionist enemies, the U.S. President and the leaders of world imperialism, as well as his concessions, have exposed his capitulatory line. The line of As-Sadat, the report says, has taken Egypt out of the battle and is trying to reach a partial and separate settlement with the Zionists to the detriment of Egypt's national interests and the interests of the Arab nation.

The report emphasizes the need to unify the factions and groups in the Palestinian resistance and calls on the groups of the Arab national liberation movement and the world revolutionary forces to support and back the resistance to enable it to achieve its aims. The report points out that the Egyptian regime has sided with the imperialists and Zionists and says that the Egyptian regime, with the cooperation of imperialism and Zionism, is contributing to the liquidation of the Palestinian cause and the rights of the Palestinian people.

Emphasizing the need to establish a broad Arab front, the report says that the success of such a front will require the adoption of a program approved by the Arab national liberation forces and based on confronting the As-Sadat line of capitulation, liberating the occupied Arab territories and insuring the right of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland and determine their own destiny.

In its report, the Iraqi Communist Party praised Iraq's achievements and progress in all fields and praised the firm and unchanging attitudes of the 17 July Revolution on the Arab and international levels. The report says that Iraq's policy on the Arab level has been characterized by its opposition to imperialists, Zionist and reactionary plots. The report adds that Iraq is continuing its opposition to the imperialist monopolies and is greatly contributing to the struggle against the policy of the imperialist forces and their aggressive attitudes. The report says that Iraq's progressive line is unnerving the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary circles which hate Iraq, this, the report says, proves that the correct Iraqi stand is the decisive answer to their plots.

The communist party expressed satisfaction with the past 5 years in the age of the progressive national and nationalist front and said that the front has been a great gain among those won for our people.

BRIEFS

NEW KUWAITI AMBASSADOR--Baghdad, 15 March--Saddam Husayn, RCC vice chairman, received here this evening 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abdallah as-Sartawi, Kuwaiti ambassador to Iraq, on the occasion of his assuming his post. During the meeting, which was attended by 'Abd al-Husayn al-Jamali, assistant foreign minister, discussions were held on the fraternal relations between the two countries. [Baghdad INA in Arabic 1612 GMT 15 Mar 78 JN]

FOREIGN MINISTER CONTACTS UN ENVOY ON LEBANON

JN161920Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Mar 78 JN

[Text] The minister of state for foreign affairs today held contacts with the Jordanian permanent envoy to the United Nations and briefed him on the Jordanian Government's stand toward the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon. He also conveyed to him the Jordanian Government's instructions regarding the possibility of the Security Council meeting to discuss the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon and regarding insuring complete coordination with the Arab countries.

Meets With Lebanese Ambassador

JN161250Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Hasan Ibrahim, minister of state for foreign affairs, this morning reviewed with the Lebanese ambassador in Amman the developments of events in fraternal Lebanon. He also acquainted him with Jordan's stand, which includes the denunciation of the serious Israeli aggression against the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon as well as the safety of its territories.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Ministry today informed the Jordanian diplomatic missions abroad of the Jordanian Government's attitude toward the Israeli aggression on southern Lebanon, of what the official spokesman announced yesterday regarding this aggression and of the results of Jordan's contacts in this regard.

Contacts 'Big Power' Ambassadors

JN161535Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 16 March--Jordan has called on the big powers to shoulder their responsibilities toward bringing about a withdrawal of the Israeli forces from southern Lebanon and halting the aggression against Lebanese territory.

Hasan Ibrahim, minister of state for foreign affairs, today conveyed to the ambassadors of the five big powers the Jordanian Government's denunciation of this aggression, which constitutes a flagrant violation of the principles of international law and the UN Charter.

Ibrahim pointed out to the ambassadors that this aggression reflects Israel's expansionist policy in the Arab area and reveals its intransigent stand toward a just peace. This aggression also gives clear proof of Israel's determination to close the door to a just and peaceful settlement in the Middle East and places a new obstacle in the way of peace efforts.

SHAM'UN MEETS WITH SARKIS, MAKES STATEMENT

NC162056Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 2015 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Text] President Ilyas Sarkis and former President Camille Sham'un met tonight in presence of Prime Minister Salim al-Huss. They reviewed the developments in the situation following the Israeli attack on southern Lebanon and the debate which took place today in the Chamber of Deputies.

After a 90-minute meeting, Sham'un told reporters: I acquainted the president with the debate and views expressed in the Chamber of Deputies and reviewed all aspects of the current situation with him.

Asked whether he believes it is sound to request a meeting of the UN Security Council in these circumstances, Sham'un said: The request has not been made yet. However, a complaint has been lodged with the council on the Israeli aggression against Lebanon. It is my view that it would be preferable to defer the request for a meeting until we know what Lebanese forces we can arrange to replace the Israeli forces.

Asked his views regarding the deployment of UN forces if Lebanon were unable to mobilize the Lebanese forces, Sham'un said: We must first of all work to build our Lebanese forces. If we fail then we will think of something else. Our dignity demands that we should have our Lebanese forces; otherwise, the admission of failure is a big scandal. Answering another question, leader of the Liberal Party Sham'un said: The south belongs to the Lebanese, not to the Palestinians or the Israelis.

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES HOLDS SECRET SESSION

NC161253Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The Chamber of Deputies held a secret session at 1130 today. Speaker Kamil al-As'ad chaired the session which ended a few moments ago. About 60 deputies attended. It has been learned that the discussions dealt with the measures which must be adopted vis-a-vis the sudden Israeli attack on southern Lebanon. The session has been adjourned until Monday.

Al-As'ad Makes Statement

NC161630Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The Chamber of Deputies met behind closed doors this morning under Speaker Kamil al-As'ad. The session was attended by the prime minister, the ministers and 53 deputies and was devoted to discussion of the general situation in the country.

After the session Speaker al-As'ad said: The fact that the session was secret means that it is impermissible for me to inform the public or the press about the proceedings of this session. Regarding the adjournment of the session until next Monday, I have already said that the issue is a serious one and that it is directly connected with the entire national entity and existence. We are still confronting this danger. Therefore, it is natural for us to continue our discussion and watch developments and, as a result, take a responsible stand compatible with these developments. By then the situation will have finally crystallized and the government will have at its disposal almost conclusive [al-mu'tayat ath-thabitah wa shibh an-niha'iyah] data through the contacts the government is holding in the Arab and international fields.

AL-JUMAYYIL CALLS FOR UNITY TO CONFRONT ORDEAL

NC161644Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1515 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpts] Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil has said that through their unity the Lebanese alone are capable of delivering the country from its ordeal and tragedy and of freeing it from the arms of the international octopus. Through their sound solidarity, he said, the Lebanese can establish their presence, consolidate their entity and safeguard their rights and dignity.

Al-Jumayyil said: If southern Lebanon was under the Lebanese authority's sovereignty we could have prevented the current tragedies and destruction in this dear part of our country. However, we have been helpless and the state's authority has been lacking in the border area, which became a free arena for certain organizations, international influence and foreign ideologies.

Al-Jumayyil added: I cannot understand whether the events in southern Lebanon were of interest to the Lebanese, Arabs or the Palestinians. Can the Arab states absolve themselves of responsibility for the Israeli entry into the area since they failed to implement their resolutions on southern Lebanon? What pretexts can Lebanon officially resort to in order to confront the Israeli incursion?

Time and again we have warned that the events in southern Lebanon were detrimental to the Lebanese state. The anomalous behavior and practices in the area were attempts aimed at partition, while all the Lebanese have called for the unity of the territory and people. However, the territory lacked security and the people were rendered homeless. Who are we waiting for to resolve these complex problems for us?

Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil then said: Out of my faith in Lebanon and my eagerness to safeguard every inch of its territory, I urge all the Lebanese to close their ranks to save the country and their future from defeatist plans. Time is turning against the interests of us all. Only through our united stand can we spare Lebanon all the shocks and attempts at division, partition and occupation. Only a healthy, united Lebanon can serve its cause and all Arab and Palestinian causes.

NATIONALIST LEADERS MEET WITH ARAB DELEGATIONS

JN161734Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 16 March--The Central Political Council of the Lebanese nationalist and progressive forces today discussed with the Arab delegations participating in the rally commemorating the death of Kamal Junblatt the serious position of the Lebanese nationalist movement and the Palestinian resistance in the wake of the current Zionist offensive against southern Lebanon. At the conclusion of a meeting held today after the rally, George Hawi, deputy chairman of the Central Political Council of the Lebanese nationalist and progressive forces, said that the Lebanese nationalist movement has asked the Arab delegations to work toward shouldering their national responsibility to confront the Zionist aggression. He added that the Arab brothers affirmed their solidarity with the struggle of our people and the Palestinian resistance. Mr Hawi said that Iraq, Libya, Algeria and the PDRY have promised political support to thwart the plots against Lebanon and also effective practical support to enable the movement to continue the battle. Mr Hawi valued the support given the Lebanese nationalist movement by Iraq and said that fraternal Iraq is contributing to our steadfastness in the face of the Zionist invasion and the isolationist plans.

Mr Hawi announced that the nationalist movement has decided to fight along with the Palestinian resistance to liberate our occupied territories. He added that the fight will continue to drive the invading forces from the country and to foil the political aims of the aggressors; namely, to impose humiliating terms on the resistance and on Lebanon.

FURTHER REPORT ON BUTRUS, ARAB AMBASSADORS

NC161251Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Text] As part of the diplomatic moves now underway, Fu'ad Butrus, minister of foreign and expatriates affairs and minister of national defense, met at 1000 today with the heads of the Arab diplomatic missions accredited to Lebanon. The meeting was attended by Foreign Ministry Secretary General Shaykh Najib ad-Dahdah and Political Affairs Director Dr 'Adil Isma'il.

Minister Butrus first welcomed the Arab diplomats, and then he informed them that the Lebanese Government has notified the chairman and members of the UN Security Council of the Israeli attack on Lebanese territory in the south. Minister Butrus also told the diplomats that the Lebanese Government is now contacting the Arab states and the big powers and particularly the Arab group at the United Nations through the Lebanese UN delegate in order to determine what steps to take.

Addressing the heads of the diplomatic missions, the foreign minister emphasized that attempts to settle the aggression will be futile if the Israeli forces do not withdraw from Lebanese territory and if sovereignty over the south is not restored at the same time.

The foreign minister pointed out that Lebanon has paid an exhorbitant price for the Palestinian question and is no longer able to shoulder anything more because the citizens in the south are homeless--which considerably burdens the country. [The foreign minister added]: And this is what we wanted to avert when we sought to implement the Cairo and Shtawrah agreements.

Concerning a call to convene the UN Security Council, the foreign minister pointed out that such a call is always a possibility. However, it should not be made until after guaranteeing the passage of a resolution which would favor Lebanon and which could be implemented, not like the previous resolutions passed by the Security Council.

The foreign minister asked the heads of the Arab diplomatic missions to convey Lebanon's stand to their governments. He also urged them to keep in touch with the Foreign Ministry in order to coordinate stands with Lebanon for the sake of the common Arab interest.

SARKIS RECEIVES SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM

NC171007Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 Mar 78 NC

[Text] President Ilyas Sarkis at 1100 today received Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. Khaddam was accompanied by Syrian Deputy Defense Minister and Air Forces Commander Maj Gen Naji Jamil. The meeting was attended by Foreign and Expatriate Affairs Minister Fu'ad Butrus.

Receives U.S. Ambassador

NC170440Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 17 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The Israeli attack continued to receive the attention of the officials in Lebanon yesterday. President Sarkis received the U.S. ambassador in the presence of Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus. They discussed the Israeli attack on southern Lebanon.

FOREIGN MINISTER BUTRUS ON U.S. STATEMENT

NC170717Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 17 Mar 78 NC

[17 March statement by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and Expatriate Affairs and Defense Fu'ad Butrus--read by announcer]

[Text] The position announced by the United States last night, requesting Israel to withdraw from southern Lebanon, was in response to a message sent by President Ilyas Sarkis the day before yesterday to the U.S. President through the U.S. ambassador in Beirut. In his message President Sarkis asked the U.S. President to adopt an attitude toward the aggression against the south and the developments in Lebanon in harmony with the U.S. pledges and assurances regarding the independence, unity and territorial integrity of Lebanon. He also asked him in the same message to endeavor to help Lebanon restore its sovereignty over its territory, especially in the south.

Minister Butrus added: The frank attitude adopted by the United States and also the position adopted by the Soviet Union constitute an important factor which could help in the handling of the consequences of the Israeli aggression. In the withdrawal of the Israeli armies, and in the return of the official authority to Lebanon, especially southern Lebanon, since this is very important in our opinion. In conclusion Butrus said: The work of the Lebanese diplomacy stems from these considerations and is within this context. It was on this basis that the Lebanese Government condemned the aggression and requested withdrawal in an immediate complaint to the Security Council.

SOVIET, BRITISH AMBASSADORS MAKE STATEMENTS

NC171042Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 Mar 78 NC

[Text] At 1000 today President Ilyas Sarkis received Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Soldatov in the presence of Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss. After the meeting the Soviet ambassador made the following statement: I discussed the situation resulting from the Israeli aggression on southern Lebanon with his excellency the president. I also explained the Soviet Union's position on this matter.

Meanwhile, in one of the offices of the presidential palace, Fu'ad Butrus, minister of foreign and expatriate affairs and national defense, discussed with British Ambassador Peter Wakefield current affairs and the situation in southern Lebanon after the Israeli attack. Ambassador Wakefield made the following statement: The meeting with Minister Butrus dealt with all aspects of the issue of the south, especially the question of submitting the matter to the UN Security Council, particularly since Britain is chairing the council's current session. Answering a question, the British ambassador said: We are in constant contact with the government.

BEIRUT REPORTS SYRIA APPROVED IRAQI AID PASSAGE

NC162240Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Damascus radio tonight reported that the Iraqi Government has asked Syria to allow Iraqi aid to the Palestinian resistance in Lebanon to pass through its territory and added that Syria immediately approved the request.

LEBANON ABOUT TO CALL FOR SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING

NC161529Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss today made a statement in which he said: We are inclined to call on the UN Security Council to convene and we are holding contacts to guarantee the results.

He added: Yesterday Lebanon lodged a complaint with the Security Council and gave it the details of the aggression which has been perpetrated against the land of the south. The government is preparing to call on the Security Council to convene to discuss this complaint and take the necessary measures to guarantee the ending of this aggression and insure the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the Lebanese south as quickly as possible. The government is holding the necessary contacts and consultations with the Security Council member states, the other sisterly Arab states and the friendly states in order to guarantee the achievement of the results we seek by submitting the issue to the UN Security Council.

ISRAELIS REPORTEDLY POST LEAFLETS IN HASBAYYA

NC162000Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1915 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The Israelis are reported to have posted leaflets in Hasbayya calling upon the citizens to cooperate with them and assuring the citizens that no harm will befall them.

PRO-IRAQI GROUP INVOLVED IN WEST BEIRUT CLASH

NC162036Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 2015 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Text] A heavy exchange of fire was heard tonight in the western sector of Beirut near Corniche al-Mazra'ah. It transpired that a clash broke out between a pro-Iraqi Palestinian organization and another armed organization. The clash ceased a short time ago. An unidentified vehicle passed by a police post near the Progressive Socialist Party building and hurled a grenade which killed a person named Marwan. This was followed by exchanges of fire, which soon ended.

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS ON MOPPING-UP OPERATIONS

NC161840Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Fierce battles continued today between the Israeli forces and armed Palestinians in southern Lebanon, while evacuees flowed into Sidon and nearby villages. This morning, while Israeli planes were attacking the roads to Al-Burghuliyah, 'Abbasiyah, Shabriha and At-Tiri and flying over 'Ayn al-Hulwah near Sidon, Israeli artillery was bombarding the Palestinians' positions in 'Arab Salim, Armun, Al-Khardali and An-Nabatiyah.

Reports indicate that the Israeli land forces are carrying out mopping-up operations 8 km deep in Lebanese territory searching for fedayeen.

Palestinian sources said that Israeli helicopters landed infantrymen in Al-Khiyam and Ibil as-Saqi, and it is believed they are moving toward Al-'Ayshiyah in Jazzin district.

Meanwhile, Israeli gunboats continued to patrol the Lebanese coast from Ad-Damur to An-Naqurah. Naval units were seen opposite Ra's as-Sarafand. Reports received a while ago indicate that the Israeli forces have bombarded and destroyed 'Ayn At-Tinah Bridge in western Al-Biqa'.

Lebanese sources have not reported any losses among the civilians, while Israeli sources admitted that there losses were 11 killed and 57 wounded. The Israeli sources estimated the Palestinian losses at hundreds of killed and wounded. The Palestinians admitted 79 casualties while foreign journalists estimated the Palestinians losses at 300 killed and 1,200 wounded.

On Overnight Battles

NC170634Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 17 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The Israeli artillery bombardment of the various axes in the southern area continued throughout last night. The Israeli aircraft made several sorties and carried out concentrated bombing of certain positions to pave the way for the advance of the land forces, particularly along the Tibnin axis in the direction of Tyre city. The planes dropped bombs on Ar-Rashidiyah camp near Tyre. The camp was empty, having been evacuated as soon as the Israeli attack on southern Lebanon began.

Reports indicate that fierce battles have taken place in the central sector. Israeli forces supported by aircraft and tanks shelled several targets. The Israeli forces described these actions as mopping-up and clearing-up operations of the area they captured. The sound of artillery was heard throughout the night. It appears that the Israeli forces are facing difficulties in their advance along the Tabnin-type axis.

INA GIVES ROUNDUP REPORT ON 16 MARCH FIGHTING

JN162040Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 16 March--The military operations which the Zionist enemy launched all day long along a 100-km front did not take the form of expansion and deployment as yesterday, but were characterized as fierce. The enemy focused on consolidating the positions he occupied after 2 days of fighting. The enemy launched a series of ground and air attacks against the supply routes of the joint forces so as to confuse them and paralyze their movements and thus allow the enemy to build its fortifications.

No basic changes occurred to the fighting positions except for the central sector where the enemy massed concentrations of armored vehicles supported by planes so as to thrust deep into this sector northward to the Litani River.

The enemy concentrated his fire on the At-Tire-Bayt Yahun-Haddathah triangle north of Bint Jubayl after his planes had raided the three villages continuously from the morning to 1600 today to enable his ground forces to advance toward Tibnin, the second largest town in the sector after Bint Jubayl.

All reports received from the fighting area state that the enemy armed forces progressed only few kilometers despite the covering fire of his artillery and planes. Other supporting forces were compelled to shell the town of Al-Ghanduriyah in the higher part of the sector where there is an important route used to supply the joint forces across the Litani River.

In the eastern sector and the Al-'Urqub area where large groups of the joint forces are fighting in positions on the front after their supply lines were cut, fierce fighting occurred today around the town of Rashayya al-Fukhkhar and the martyr Salah Base 6 km from the occupied Syrian territory which leads to the town of Hasbayya. Hasbayya is one of the most important nationalist positions in the area and the last position separating the sector from the rightist area of Jazzin.

The Zionist forces seem to be aiming to open a supply road to the rightist forces in the south via the occupied land by opening the road between Al-Qulay'ah and Jazzin after liquidating the nationalist positions which threaten the road in Rashayya, Hasbayya and Kawkaba.

Aside from these two sectors which were the scene of extremely fierce fighting and despite the intensive military operations involving 60 planes which flew in southern Lebanon airspace all day long, the battles were [words indistinct] to control the communication roads and prevented the enemy from building fortifications in the positions he occupied.

The enemy was forced to admit that the operations he began 45 hours ago did not stop today as he had claimed. The security strip which Begin said extended 10 km along the border has big gaps and its depth in certain areas does not exceed 2 km. Perhaps this is what prompted the enemy to launch brutal operations against more distant camps. Enemy planes strafed the Ar-Rashidiyah camp near Tyre and his gunboats shelled the camp and the city.

Military observers think it is likely that the Zionist enemy will continue his operations until he has complete control over all the areas south of the Litani River or the so-called Israeli red line so as to begin consolidating and perpetuating his occupation.

PALESTINIAN MILITARY COMMAND COMMUNIQUE REPORTED

JN162359Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2315 GMT 16 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Brothers, we have just received the following:

The military spokesman of the command of the Palestinian revolution forces has said that last night [16 March] the Zionist enemy's air force bombarded the town of An-Nabatiyah. Our ground defenses fought back and shot down an Israeli plane, which was seen falling in flames south of An-Nabatiyah.

The Palestinian revolution fired rockets at the enemy settlements of Metulla and Qir Yat Shemona for 20 minutes. The rockets hit their targets and flames were seen rising from enemy installations in both settlements. The forces of the Palestinian revolution yesterday [16 March] waged a fierce 6-hour battle with the advancing enemy forces in Al-Qantarah town on the At-Tayyibah axis [as heard]. The enemy had prepared for its attack on the village with air and artillery bombardments. The forces of the Palestinian revolution have also confronted the enemy offensive in the Shihin and ('Isa az-Zil) regions and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. The Zionist shelling of the forward areas continued until evening. The forces of the Palestinian revolution are returning the fire.

SYRIA ALLOWS IRAQI AID TO PAIESTINIANS IN LEBANON

JN162136Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 16 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--SANA has learned that the Iraqi Government requested on Wednesday, that is, 15 March, the entry of aid via Syrian territory to the Palestinian resistance in Lebanon. SANA has learned that Syria immediately approved the request and informed the Iraqi Government of the following:

1. We welcome any assistance sent to the Palestinian resistance and at any time you wish we are ready to receive at the Syrian-Iraqi borders any arms or ammunition and deliver them to the PLO.

2. We are also prepared to receive volunteers at the Syrian-Iraqi borders and transport them to the PLO, unless the PLO does not wish so.

3. If the Iraqi side wishes us to provide receipts for the arms and ammunition we receive, we have no objection to this.

KHADDAM RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM BREZHNEV

JN170927Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 17 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--At 0900 today Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received the Soviet ambassador in Damascus, who conveyed a message from President Leonid Brezhnev, the chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, to President Hafiz al-Asad concerning the grave situation in southern Lebanon resulting from the Israeli aggression.

AL-ASAD, KHULAYFAWI RECEIVE ROMANIAN PREMIER

JN161536Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 16 March--At 1400 today President Hafiz al-Asad received Romanian Premier Manea Manescu in the presence of Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi.

During the meeting the results of Manescu's visit to Syria as well as the talks held between the Syrian and Romanian sides were discussed.

President Hafiz al-Asad handed Manea Manescu a letter in reply to the one he had received from President Nicolae Ceausescu. The talks were interrupted by a working luncheon.

Manescu Supports Negotiations

JN161325Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1245 GMT 16 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 16 March--The Romanian Prime Minister, Manea Manescu, has stressed that peace in the Middle East can only be achieved on strong and firm bases by comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and recognition of the Palestinian Arab people's right to establish their independent state.

In a statement published here today, Manescu strongly denounced the occupation of the national territories of other countries by force and said: We support the policy of negotiations in the Middle East and this, in our viewpoint, means comprehensive and complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the creation of suitable conditions for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

ALGERIA

FOREIGN MINISTER SUMMONS AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON

LD161029Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpt] Abdelaziz Bouteflika, member of the Revolution Council and foreign minister, has received brother Mohamed Yazid, Algeria's ambassador to Lebanon, who was summoned for consultations following the recent developments in the Middle East.

EL MOUDJAHID DENOUNCES ISRAELI ATTACK ON LEBANON

LD161958Y Algiers APS in French 1000 GMT 16 Mar 78 LD

[Press review]

[Text] Algiers--All national newspapers this morning devote their commentaries to the Israeli aggression against Lebanon. Under the heading "Israeli Expansionism and Its Crimes," the national daily EL MOUDJAHID says:

"Once again, these disciples of Adolf Hitler are sowing death among the civilian population. The scale of the aggression leaves no room for doubt as to the intentions of these criminals and their plots. They are seeking the genocide of the Palestinian people and they wish to set the Lebanese people against the refugees, evidence of which is the active complicity of the terrorist Menahem Begin, head of the Zionist administration, with the elements of the Lebanese right in southern Lebanon, from where he is personally directing the slaughter with that 'great courage' which, as early as 1948, let us remind you, enabled him to direct the murder of Palestinian women and children in Dayr Yasin and other atrocious crimes against innocent people. It is also obvious that the Zionists want--if not to occupy for good--at least to turn southern Lebanon into a buffer zone under their surveillance, thus implementing their theory of 'secure, defensible borders,' borders which their expansionism calls for widening continually to the detriment of the interests of all Arab peoples in the region."

"The Zionist aggression against the Palestinian resistance and against fraternal Lebanon is an act of aggression against the entire Arab nation. It requires that the nation step up its struggle against Israel and join its efforts for liberating the Arab territories and recovering the national rights of the Palestinian people while effectively meeting the plots being hatched against its security. The events taking place prove once again that there cannot be any just solution to the Middle East problem without recognition of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people and without the participation of its organization as its sole legal representative, speaking on its behalf and expressing its aspirations.

"Faithful to the traditions of struggle and the duty of fraternity and solidarity, Algeria, in keeping with its chosen path and its commitments, stands resolutely on the side of the Palestinian revolution in the heroic struggle it is waging against Zionist aggression, for the defense of its just cause and for the defense of the honor of the entire Arab nation."

"It is also obvious," EL MOUDJAHID continues, "that the Zionists could not have launched such a large-scale operation if they had not known that the present situation in the Arab world, on both the military and political levels, is in its favor. The heaviest responsibility for this situation is borne by President Anwar as-Sadat. Because he has publicly promised that he will no longer make war on Israel, the Zionists, assured of peace on what used to be the Egyptian front, can concentrate all their war efforts on the other fronts without running any great risks.

"But this massacre," continues EL MOUDJAHID, "once again demonstrates that no negotiation is possible. Israel was created by terror and only understands the language of violence. Only war can impose law and justice on these colonizers who came from the four corners of the earth to grab an Arab land. Israel is deaf to the language of diplomacy and to international resolutions and decisions. If these are what the Arab nation is counting on to enforce our rights, it is seriously mistaken, particularly since the Zionists' allies and the West no longer hide their jubilation every time Arabs are slaughtered."

"Not a single voice in the West," EL MOUDJAHID goes on, "was raised to denounce Begin when he made vengeful remarks after the recent operation carried out by Palestinian fedayeen in usurped Palestine. The very people who cried 'scandal' and 'crime' after the operation have suddenly fallen silent today. It is true that in their eyes the life of an Arab is very far from being worth that of an Israeli. One could think that one is back in the days of the crusades to hear the Western mass media, often with indecent triumph, announcing the entry of the Zionist troops into Lebanon."

"Palestinian women and children have once again been murdered in Lebanon. Others will die, but whatever the scale of this liquidation, the Palestinian people will survive the misfortunes being inflicted on them and will return blow for blow. The struggling peoples have been subjected to slaughter on a grand scale. The Algerian people have experienced these operations, called 'jumelle' and 'chalie' operations, and so forth, but their determination overcame all obstacles. In the same way the determination of the Palestinian people and their spirit of struggle will insure that their sacrifices and sufferings will not be in vain. The Algerian people, who have experienced colonialism, understand their fight and remain more than ever before on their side," the national daily concludes.

ASH-SHA'B: DOUBLE STANDARD IN CONDEMNING AGGRESSION

LD162245Y Algiers ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 13 Mar 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "The Aggressor and the Victim"]

[Text] How lucky and "dear" are those Zionists: Their blood is more expensive than Arab oil and more precious than the diamond mines of Africa. Every time a bomb explodes in occupied Palestine, major establishments in Europe and America are shaken.

If a Zionist is killed or wounded, revenge is taken on scores of Palestinians. If their soldiers and policemen fall under the blows of Palestinian strugglers, they become--with a magic stroke--innocent children and old people.

When Palestinian refugee camps and Lebanese villages are destroyed, their inhabitants, their women, children and old people who are victims--again with a magic stroke--become mere "terrorists," whose annihilation arouses only satisfaction and whose death is received by some with expressions of regret and a "sincere and impartial" call to the murderers of the Palestinian people and the usurpers of their land to show "self-restraint," as well as with advice to the victims to learn the lesson of attempting to harm "Israeli security."

The reaction to the fedayeen operation by the imperialist forces conniving with Zionism has revealed the extent of the hatred and hostility they harbor toward the Palestinian people and their just struggle to restore their inalienable national rights to their land.

Those who shed tears with Begin and condemn "Palestinian terror" or the "brutal crimes" and who for scores of years have been reiterating such imperialist jargon against the Third World peoples forget that the man who is today the head of the Zionist entity is a veteran terrorist. However hypocritical those who shed tears may be, the Palestinian people can never forget the historical crime against them. No one has the right--least of all an enemy--to advise the Palestinian people to pursue the appropriate method of "dialog" with the usurpers at a time when the Palestinian people are being subjected to a systematic annihilation both inside and outside of Palestine.

Should the Palestinian fedayeen who carried out the operation so that their cause would remain alive in the hearts of the friends and the eyes of the enemies, in order not to be accused of "brutality," be content with staging a peaceful demonstration that would lead them to a police station or end up by submitting a petition to the U.S. President begging him to use his influence with Israel in order to recognize the Palestinian people's right to exist, as As-Sadat is now doing?

If the leaders of the Palestinian people are in need of lessons in the morality of political struggle and in dealing with the enemies, then certainly it will not take them from those who annihilated generations and generations of people, not in defense of a just cause, but in order to preserve colonialist privileges and vanishing imperialist influence.

The important fact for that those who cry at the wailing wall of Zionism and those who will gloat over the massacring of Palestinians tomorrow or the day after (and therefore should offer advice rather than "condolences") is that there will be no peace or security without respect for the Palestinian people and their right to political existence.

To continue encouraging Zionist ambitions with various means will lead nowhere. Striking at the Palestinian refugee camps and killing more Palestinians in order to satisfy Zionist arrogance is the easiest way out for a terrorist and criminal entity but certainly will not give this entity security so long as there are people determined to restore their usurped right.

ASH-SHA'B ON SOMALIA'S WITHDRAWAL FROM OGADEN

LD151616Y Algiers ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 11 Mar 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "A Lesson to the Moroccan Regime"]

[Excerpts] Following the Shaba agreement to settle the dispute between Libya and Chad, Somalia's decision to withdraw its forces from the Ogaden Region comes as a positive factor contributing to the opening of a new page in the relations between the countries of the Horn of Africa. It also restores security and peace to this area.

The decision, regardless of its impace on the developments of the military situation, puts out the flames in one of the hotbeds in our continent and brings to an end all forms of foreign intervention. It also encourages the advocates of reason and peaceful solutions to cling to their views regarding settling disputes between members of the same family because war is unnecessary to settle all problems.

The halting of war between the two African neighbors, although it has come after terrible massacres in which much African blood was shed and after heavy material losses, can be regarded as a victory for our continent and a bolstering of the OAU principles, which provide that disputes should be solved through negotiations and that borders inherited on independence must be maintained in order to maintain stability in the continent. It was possible to apply this principle in Biafra, southern Sudan and Angola, thanks to the eagerness of the African group not to open the door to altering borders by force, so as to maintain the present balance and avoid the Balkanizing of our continent.

There is an important aspect in this situation which is of direct interest to us; namely, that the end of the war in the Ogaden should be a lesson to the feudalist Moroccan regime and a reason for it to pause and ponder in the hope that it will return to the correct path and realize that the use of force in the western desert in order to solve a political problem is futile. The Moroccan regime has before it several examples of the failure of attempts to change borders by force. It must be admitted, however, that although some of the justifications for such attempts are acceptable to the heart, they are refused by the mind. Let the king of Rabat ask himself why those before him have failed to change the borders by force.

Did those politicians lack intelligence or political experience, or did they lack weapons and military equipment? No, the only reason for this is to be found in what happened in Angola, Nigeria, southern Sudan and the Horn of Africa. What happened there was contrary to the will of the African people, who refuse to divide their territories in a manner that would serve the plans of imperialism and neocolonialism to dominate our continent and plunder its wealth.

There is no doubt that this unanimous African rejection of digging up the past in order to search for factors of division will strengthen the belief of our Saharan people in the justice of their cause and convince its enemies who have fallen victim of Moroccan misrepresentation that their attitude toward the Western Saharan is contrary to the course of history. We hope that the king of Rabat's visit to Moscow and his foreign minister's visit to Washington will be an opportunity that both the Soviet Union and the United States, which support the Saharan people's right to self-determination, will take in order to convince the leaders of Rabat that their position on the Western Sahara is contrary to the will of the African people and that they are waging an unjust war against a people demanding their right to live and to exist. In other words it would be better for these leaders to accept now and before it is too late a political solution for the Western Sahara which, on the one hand, respects the UN resolutions on granting the Saharan people their right to self-determination, and, on the other, respects a basic OAU principle--the principle of not altering borders inherited on independence.

LIBYA

FOREIGN SECRETARY SENDS CABLE TO YASIR 'ARAFAT

LD161042Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 16 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpt] Tripoli--Dr Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, foreign secretary and chairman of the OAU foreign ministers council's current session, has sent the following cable to brother Yasir 'Arafat:

Struggling brother Yasir 'Arafat, PLO chairman and commander in chief of the armed forces of the Palestine revolution; greetings: The continuation of the racist, Zionist aggression on the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples proves categorically that the racist, Zionist entity is founded on usurpation, terrorism and the shedding of innocent blood, the fact that threatens the peace and security of the region and the entire world. This requires from all of us the adoption of all decisive means and measures to check and confront it.

On behalf of the OAU foreign ministerial council, while saluting the heroism and steadfastness of the Palestinian people and their courageous forces which are defending the sacred right against the usurpers and racists, I stress that Africa and the forces which cherish justice and freedom are following your struggle and sacrifices with appreciation and admiration and condemn this treacherous aggression and stand by you, supporting you in your legitimate struggle till victory.

MOROCCO

KING HASSAN SENDS PROTEST TO BEGIN VIA WALDHEIM

LD161444Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Mar 78 LD

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II has sent a cable to the UN secretary general. This is the text of the cable:

Your Excellency Mr Kurt Waldheim, the UN secretary general, New York: I beg your excellency to take note of the text of the attached cable which I request you to send to Mr Menahem Begin, the prime minister of the Government of Israel:

Mr Menahem Begin, prime minister of the Israeli Government: We are following with extreme concern the attack which your armed forces waged today on southern Lebanon. Our concern is redoubled, on the one hand, in view of the destruction of civil establishments and the killing of the innocent caused by this attack, and, on the other, because it aggravates the tension that exists in the Middle East and could undermine the efforts being exerted for the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace.

Regardless of how deeply you were moved by the fedayeen operation that was carried out in Tel Aviv, nothing can justify the nature and magnitude of the operation that you have carried out on Lebanese terirtory, using in this operation your land, naval and air forces; this makes it a deliberate and flagrant aggression on an independent state, a member of the United Nations, which is not in a state of war with Israel.

Morocco, which did not refrain from performing the duty of solidarity with its Arab brethren in the armed clash in October 1973, has supported and continues to support all steps which lead to the establishment of peace in the region. But today's attack makes it inevitable for us to believe that we might be marching up a blind alley which does not lead to the desired peace and that we are moving backward and moving further and further away from this peace.

It is our belief that had President as-Sadat's initiative to inaugurate fruitful Arab-Israeli dialog found the necessary understanding by you and your government, all parties would have avoided the complications which we are experiencing; all would have been living under the shadow of hope, which creates the suitable circumstances to realize comprehensive security for all.

On its behavior and international dealings, Morocco is guided by the principles of the divine books that teach moderation in behavior and the pursuance of the path of wisdom. Our great Koran urges us to do so in the verse: "Repel with that which is fairer, and behold he between whom and thee there is enmity shall be as if he were a loyal friend."

This why we have remained loyal to the method of opening up to peace and have called for reconciliation in the Middle East region. But if Israel persists in denying the Arabs' rights, which were unanimously agreed on at the Rabat summit conference in 1974, and if it insists on imposing through stubbornness a fait accompli, Morocco will find itself compelled to pursue another policy, since the policy of wisdom and moderation does not help our purpose, nor does it lead to the sought-after peace.

We call upon you to put an end to the aggression on Lebanon and to order the withdrawal of the Israeli army to its positions, since without this all chance of peace in the region will be dissipated.

Signed: Hassan II, King of Morocco

SUDAN

NUMAYRI GIVES SPEECH TO SSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE

LD161858Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1702 GMT 15 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Speech by President Ja'far Numayri to Central Committee of Sudanese Socialist Union in Khartoum--live]

[Excerpts] I must reiterate that national reconciliation was an initiative addressed to every dissident, opponent or adversary both at home and abroad. It was an initiative for the doubters, the cautious, the reluctant, the fearful, the antagonists and the silent. All should be included in the single march. [applause] No one should ask them where they have been or what they have been doing. Nothing should be held against them because of past rancor or antagonism or because of an old account. This is the initiative of the May revolution for the sons of Sudan. (?It was undertaken) with no other will but that of the sons of Sudan. Come home safely; join the march with pride; return to Sudan, where there is no room for partisanship, factionalism or fanaticism; and return to a Sudan of the one organization based on the alliance of the people's working forces. [applause]

Free revolutionary brothers, members of the central committee: Sudan has always been a force of peace [words indistinct] for its nation and in its continent, out of its realization that the solidarity of the Arab nation, the cohesion of its ranks and the mobilization of the Arab forces are an indispensable weapon for fulfillment of pan-Arab aspirations, be it in peace or in a fight. The fragmentation of the Arab nation not only hampers peace efforts but also paralyzes the Arab ability to confront the prospects of failure of these efforts.

Brothers, I backed President as-Sadat's initiative not because I was firmly convinced of positive results, but in an endeavor to find peaceful solutions and to enable the entire world [words indistinct] to test Israeli intentions without falsification or deception. The initiative has exposed to the entire world the expansionist-aggressive intentions of Israel, its [word indistinct] intransigence and its violation of international law.

Brothers, we believe that the policy of axes (?benefits nobody but) the enemies of the Arab nation. Attempts to isolate or (?boycott) any Arab power will only lead to more fragmentation and [word indistinct]. We have moved, inspired by these principles, to close ranks, consolidate solidarity and check disagreement. We have done so on the basis of the firm principles of Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, the securing of the national rights of the people of Palestine and their right to self-determination and establishment of an independent national state.

Brothers, we have not been and (?will not) be passive peace-loving people in our African Continent, for we are a positive force for peace, seeking to ward off differences [words indistinct] far from any foreign intervention--hence our resolute stand against Soviet intervention and Cuban intervention in our continent, their kindling of the fire of conflict and fighting between African states and our constant warnings to sisterly African states about this danger.

We have presented and will continue to present our unique experience of triumphing over the [word indistinct] of division and conflict in our homeland, Sudan, as an African experience that proves the wisdom of Africa and Africa's legitimate rights of its (?different) nationalities and its (?manifold) [word indistinct] peacefully and through dialog. We are convinced that the clashes and collisions between African nationalities and African states threaten the security of the continent as a whole and open the door to foreign influence and domination and to a conflict of international interests.

From the same convictions sprang Sudan's initiative to provide confidence between the warring sides in Chad and achieve national unity for the brotherly Chadian people. The Sabha conference was a new model of Africa's ability to solve its differences in an African spirit and with African solidarity. From the same convictions sprang our initiative to settle the conflict in the Horn of Africa through peace and dialog, to prevent foreign involvement in African differences and to keep our continent away from the conflicts of the big powers.

Brothers, we have been following with anxiety the continuing conflict in Ogaden between Somalia and Ethiopia, because this is a conflict that threatens peace and stability in the region and opens the way to foreign interference in [word indistinct] African conflicts and because it conflicts with the charter and resolution of the OAU, which call for peaceful solutions of disputes between African states. (?Proceeding from this) I presented my initiative to Somalia and Ethiopia which called for a cease-fire and the resolving of differences between them on the basis of the charter and resolutions of the OAU and the recognition of the rights and aspirations of the different nationalities within the framework of the existing political entities inherited by the African states from colonialism.

Sudan believes Somalia's decision to withdraw its forces from Ogaden will create the appropriate objective conditions to enable the OAU to make efforts to find a peaceful solution to the differences between the two countries.

At the same time Sudan calls upon the USSR and Cuba to withdraw their forces from the Horn of Africa so that the African states might solve their own problems without foreign intervention, because the presence of these forces is contrary to the decision of the last African summit conference, which condemned and rejected the intervention of foreign states in the affairs and conflicts of the African states.

We will continue, brothers, to be faithful to good neighborliness and fraternity with our brothers and neighbors, striving with sincerity and affection to strengthen our relations with them on the basis of mutual respect for national sovereignty and joint action for common interests. We present our pioneer experiment of a program of political and economic integration with sisterly Egypt as a model of rational unionist work and developed integration between brothers based on the will and determination of two brotherly peoples.

Brothers, our relationship with sisterly Saudi Arabia is being further consolidated and deepened and the horizons of political and economic integration between our two sister states are increasing in scope and depth. On your behalf, brothers, I record our appreciation and gratitude for the backing and support that the Sudan receives from His Majesty King Khalid and his heir apparent, Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. On your behalf, brothers, I record our appreciation and gratitude to the sisterly Arab oil states for their continual support for us. We record our appreciation and gratitude for sisterly Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Qatar and Oman for their continual support to us and for their stand on our side.

Committee Session Continues

LD162134Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Summary] The Central Committee of the Sudanese Socialist Union continued its session this morning with President Numayri in the chair. The session heard a report by Secretary General Abu al-Qasim Muhammad Ibrahim, who thanked members for their efforts to explain to the people President Numayri's initiative to consolidate national unity. After a brief recess the session heard reports from provincial secretaries.

Appointments Announced

LD161452Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 15 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Summary] President Numayri this evening addressed the opening session of the Central Committee of the Sudanese Socialist Union [SSU] at the friendship hall in Khartoum. In his speech the president touched on the Sudan's support for President as-Sadat's initiative for peace in the Middle East, the Sudan's rejection of the policy of axes, its role in closing ranks and consolidating solidarity, its resolute stand against communist intervention in the African Continent, its role in achieving national unity in Chad and settling the conflict in the Horn of Africa. When the session resumed after a brief recess, the president announced the appointment of new members of the SSU Politburo; namely, Badr ad-Adin Sulayman; Sadiq al-Mahdi; Ahmad al-Mirghani; Hasan at-Turabi; Clement Mboro and Samuel (Oro). The present then presented his report on the 6-year plan for economic and social development.

TUNISIA

MEDICAL AID TO BE SENT TO SOUTHERN LEBANON

LD162103Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Public Health Minister Mongi Ben Hamida today talked to Hasab al-Awi, PLO representative in Tunisia. They discussed the present health situation in southern Lebanon and the aid the Tunisian Government has decided to send to the victims of the treacherous Zionist aggression, consisting of medicine and medical equipment.

WESTERN SAHARA

SAHARAN FIGHTERS CLAIM FURTHER BATTLE VICTORIES

LD161747Y Algiers APS in French 1200 GMT 16 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The SDAR Defense Ministry released a communique on Wednesday summing up the operations carried out by the Saharan fighters this week.

In the course of this week the Saharan People's Liberation Army has carried out a series of operations against the forces of aggression on the northern and southern fronts. Operating in the south of Morocco, our fighters made a violent attack on the monarchist army's force in the Lemsied Region, where the enemy garrison of Aglet El Bel underwent intensive bombing by heavy artillery on the night of 11-12 March 1978. One post belonging to this garrison was besieged by the liberation army which recovered the arms of the nine occupants of the post, who were killed in the fight.

On the following day in [words indistinct] a column of the monarchist occupation army walked into an ambush set by the liberation army 40 km or so from Attouilaxet. Reinforcements sent by the enemy from southern Morocco and the occupied enters were intercepted by our fighters in the same area.

Claim 47 Moroccans Killed

LD161400Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Mar 78 LD

[Summary] The Saharan Democratic Arab Republic Defense Ministry has released a communique on operations on the nights of 11 and 12 March against Moroccan forces in the (Msif) area; a Moroccan unit was ambushed 40 km from (Sueiah); another Moroccan unit was attacked near Bir Mogrein. These operations resulted in 47 enemy deaths; a large quantity of weapons were destroyed or seized.

BRIEFS

CUBAN OFFICIAL LEAVES TRIPOLI--Tripoli--The Cuban minister, president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, Hector Rodriguez Llompart, left Tripoli last night after a several-day visit to the Jamahiriyah. [Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Mar 78 LD]

TUNISIAN-FRENCH PROTOCOL--Tunis--An exchange of letters revising the Tunisian-French financial protocol was signed in Tunis yesterday. The new protocol, valid for 3 years, maintains the distribution of financial contributions for the remuneration of French voluntary workers as set under the Tunisian-French cultural, technical and scientific cooperation convention signed on 3 March 1973. However, the protocol provides for negotiations to be opened between the two countries in 1979 to define the financial contribution each of the parties shall make as of 1981. [Text] [Tunis TAP in French 1500 GMT 16 Mar 78 LD]

JERUSALEM EXPECTS U.S. SUPPORT FOR AGREEMENT ON LEBANON

TA160724Y Jerusalem POST in English 16 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[By David Landau, diplomatic correspondent]

[Excerpt] Israel is hoping that its seizure of southern Lebanon will spur Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and other Arabs to agree to impose new and stringent limitations on the PLO's freedom of movement in Lebanon. This, according to authoritative sources, is what Prime Minister Begin meant when he said last night that Israel would hold out for an "agreement or arrangement" involving "all relevant factors," before it pulled out of the area. Begin spoke at a press conference in Jerusalem.

Other high sources said that Israel might be prepared for an agreement just between itself and the Lebanese Government--provided that Syria gave its tacit consent too, giving the agreement significant added substance.

The sources all said they anticipated energetic American efforts in mediating such an agreement, with Israel keeping its own profile low. They did not expect that the "agreement" would necessarily be a formal document with signatures appended, but rather an understanding between governments.

All the Arab parties were obviously keenly interested in Israel's prompt withdrawal from the 1,000 odd square kilometers of Lebanese territory that it now holds, and hence, the sources said, there were good chances that the agreement Israel sought could be reached quickly.

Specifically, Israel will demand that the agreement provide that no PLO men be permitted to cross the Litani River southwards so as to pose a threat to the border areas.

The high sources denied an American report that President Carter has asked Begin to postpone his visit to Washington, scheduled for next week, until there is no significant Israeli presence remaining in south Lebanon.

The sources, who are close to the premier, said they knew of no such message from Carter.

Other diplomatic sources said earlier in the day they had no reason to doubt that the visit would go ahead as planned.

After Israel's withdrawal, Jerusalem will expect the border area to be effectively policed against the PLO either by regular Lebanese Army units, or else by the Christian militiamen, whom Israel is apparently prepared to further aid and strengthen for this purpose.

UN FORCE IN LEBANON 'MIGHT' BE ACCEPTABLE

JN170607Y Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0545 GMT 17 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Our political coorespondent has learned that Israel might agree to the U.S. proposal on the stationing of UN forces in southern Lebanon to prevent terrorists from carrying out sabotage operations against Israel from that area, provided that the withdrawal of the IDF forces from Lebanese territory takes place after the arrival of the UN forces.

Our correspondent added that other possibilities for solving the question of southern Lebanon are being discussed now between Israel and the United States.

SYRIAN 'THREATS' TAKEN LIGHTLY BY CABINET, EXPERTS

TA161105Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 16 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[By Yehoshu'a Tadmor]

[Text] The announcement by Damascus about putting the Syrian Air Force under the command of the "joint Arab command" as a warning to the IDF forces has been received with clear skepticism by cabinet ministers in Israel. The matter was mentioned during the cabinet session, but the general and unequivocal evaluation was that Damascus will be very cautious about getting involved in air combat with the Israeli air force.

This evaluation springs from the balance between the Syrian Air Force and the Israeli air force, with the Israelis enjoying a great advantage over the Syrian. Furthermore, Damascus is very well aware of the fact that it would not be possible to confine intervention to the air, and this could mean a real war. Syria, in the evaluation of cabinet sources, does not desire a total involvement with Israel at this juncture.

From the military aspect, the situation is not at the moment convenient for Syria to get involved, as this would mean finding itself alone on the battlefield. The deployment and positions of the Syrian fighting forces are quite complicated. About a quarter to a third of the Syrian forces are deployed in Lebanon, from Tripoli in the north--along the central traffic axis running toward Mt Lebanon and southward to the Litani--with an appreciable force near Beirut.

From this follow the evaluations of experts in Jerusalem--which were also heard at the cabinet session--that the Syrians are, at most, likely to set up new type anti-aircraft missiles, including SAM 6, [as published] the latest Soviet portable type, and do no more than that. All this, on condition that Israel does not break the rules of the game and violate the "red line" recognized by both sides.

SYRIA AGREES TO IRAQI AID TO TERRORISTS IN LEBANON

TA162204Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 2158 GMT 16 Mar 78 TA

[Text] An hour ago Damascus radio reported that Syria has acceded to Iraq's request to supply aid to the terrorists in southern Lebanon. This refers to volunteer fighters and weapons and ammunition. The Damascus radio statement was picked up by our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus.

MAPAM CALLS FOR EXIT FROM LEBANON AFTER OPERATION

TA161045Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 16 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[Text] Without doubt there had to be a reaction after the murder of men, women and children who were quietly on their way along the Haifa-Tel Aviv highway, MK Me'ir Talmi, MAPAM secretary general, said at a meeting of the party's secretariat yesterday.

The IDF is holding an operation to mop up the murderers' nests near the northern border. I am happy that the soldiers were instructed to avoid any blow at the civilian population who have no share in Fatah. I hope that the order will be honored. M. Talmi also expressed satisfaction at the order to avoid the Syrian Army so as to prevent complications.

Israel must declare that at the end of the operation and the cleaning out of the territory of the murderers' nests, the IDF will return to its bases in Israel, M. Talmi said. The Lebanese Army must be asked to take on the responsibility for closing off the territory to the terrorists so that the IDF will not have to return there. The justified IDF operation must not endanger the continuation of the negotiations between Israel and Egypt.

Regarding Begin's meeting with Carter, the MAPAM secretary general said:

Since 17 May 1977 something has happened in the area and we cannot be satisfied with the reply that on this date a mandate was given to the Begin cabinet. Among a large section of the public, the feeling exists that this is a question of the chances for peace which may be wasted. It is our right to demand two things from the prime minister on the eve of his departure for a meeting that is one of the most decisive rounds in the negotiations for peace. We demand the elimination of the new interpretation that Resolution 242 does not apply to the West Bank. This viewpoint will explode the negotiations.

The second thing we demand is: There will be no settlements during the negotiations and trust in Israel as a partner taking the peace negotiations seriously will not be violated.

Criticism can be heard from the public about the speed of the reactions when the terrorists attacked. I regret that the Alinement is not paying Begin back in his own coin as he reacted after the attack on Ma'alot. We will not learn from him. The problem occupying us is an encompassing and practical investigation. We must not be content with an internal investigation of the IDF and the police. A committee must be formed to draw conclusions with regard to the future.

At the beginning of the session the MAPAM Secretariat honored the memories of Saturday's victims.

CHRISTIAN FORCES COMMANDER TALKS WITH CORRESPONDENTS

TA161231Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 16 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Commander of the Christian forces in southern Lebanon, Maj Sa'ad Haddad, has told correspondents that the terrorists are continuing artillery shelling on Christian concentrations in the enclave. Major Haddad said there had been no cooperation between his forces and the IDF since, according to him, the IDF was in no need of assistance.

Major Haddad said the Christians alone would be unable to enforce order and expand their control in the belt conquered by the IDF because the terrorists enjoy support from all Arab countries, especially from Syria. He repeated his plea that the IDF forces not leave Lebanon, as experience proved that immediately on their withdrawal the terrorists continue with the harrassments. The Christian commander says it is advisable that the IDF remain in the area until a new independent government is established in Lebanon, which will remove the terrorists and the Syrians and will realize its sovereignty in the south as well.

FURTHER UNREST IN THE WEST BANK AREAS REPORTED

TA161105Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 16 Mar 78 TA

[Text] School classes were disrupted in Jerusalem and in a number of places in Judaea and Samaria this morning when students attempted to stage demonstrations in protest against the IDF operation in southern Lebanon.

Dozens of students clashed with a police force near the Damascus Gate and on David Street in the old city in Jerusalem. The students were dispersed and some of them were arrested. In East Jerusalem the police deployed reinforcements in anticipation of increased demonstrations.

Earlier, in Ramallah, students demonstrated on the main road, hurling stones at Israeli vehicles. A passing IDF car dispersed the students without resorting to the use of force.

In Nabulus, students in a number of schools refused to attend classes, wishing to demonstrate in the city. The demonstration was prevented, however, thanks to the teachers, who persuaded most of the students to return to classes.

In Janin, Tulkarm and in Halhul classes were disrupted this morning, but the situation has returned to normal. Only at the school for girls at Al Birah nerr Ramallah were classes not resumed. Security forces are patrolling throughout Judaea and Samaria.

BOMB IN TIBERIAS; FIRST INCIDENT IN 30 YEARS

TA170008Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0000 GMT 17 Mar 78 TA

[Text] At this moment Yo'av Karmi is handing me a report that we received a few minutes ago from Tiberias. The report says that a bomb exploded this evening in the commercial center of Tiberias. Its size is not known. There were no injuries and no damage was caused. The charge was placed in a trash cart near a wall in the shopping center of Shikun D in upper Tiberias. At the time of the explosion the place was full of housewives completing their Sabbath shopping; however, as has been said, there were no injuries.

The police, which arrived within a few minutes, sealed off the area. The police investigation has not yet brought results and there have not been any arrests. It is said that this is the first such incident in Tiberias in the past 30 years.

LIFE SAID BACK TO NORMAL IN GALILEE AREA

TA170731Y Jerusalem POST in English 17 Mar 78 p 2 TA

[Text] Nahariyya--Life returned to normal in the towns, villages and kibbutzim of western Galilee yesterday, following two days of disruptions along the border. All schools and kindergartens were reopened, workers travelled to their jobs, and farmers were in the fields again. Most of the travel restrictions on roads near the border were lifted during the day, but local people stayed alert for any eventuality.

The Rosh Haniqra grottos, cablecar and cafe, on the rock overlooking the Lebanese frontier, were reopened yesterday. German tourists staying at Nahiriyya were the first visitors.

Villagers living on the border, who have frequently suffered terrorist activity emanating from southern Lebanon, said they were satisfied that the army had "moved the border" a safe distance away.

Across the border in the Christian village of 'Alma ash-Sha'b, local residents yesterday welcomed passing Israeli soldiers with shouts of "long live Begin."

DAVAR COMMENTS ON OPERATION, NOTES LACK OF INFORMATION

TA161234Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 16 Mar 78 p 5 TA

[Hayyim Isaac commentary]

[Text] The operation to clear the terrorists out of southern Lebanon has been described as the largest IDF action of this type carried out to date. However, 24 hours after its start, we are still wondering about its precise objectives and its assumed scope and there are those who are asking whether all the aspects of the possible results were weighed or whether a great deal of room was left for improvisation because of the questions in the development of matters.

The fact of the "model" of military reaction after terror actions from bases in Lebanon has been determined and fixed for years. Terrorist envoys' attacks have almost always dragged after them IDF operations--either by land, sea or air--of various strengths, coordinated in most cases with the amount of destruction of the strike. The effect of this reaction was always very relative as regards the terrorists. Since objective political reasons prevented the IDF from conquering bases and holding on to them for any length of time, members of terrorist organizations generally returned to their nests after the IDF left--of course, apart from those of their people who were killed in the Israeli action--and they were rebuilt very quickly.

Another result of the Israeli reactions was not at all relative. Even when there were actions intended to eliminate terrorist centers, civilians were necessarily killed, particularly from among the inhabitants of the refugee camps where the bases were located--often intentionally--right next to them. Such unavoidable hits on a civilian population came about accidentally with a military operation aimed at certain objectives, particularly when Israel became more and more in need of air support for its reaction operations, particularly from the wish not to endanger land forces in raids in great depth, the complications of which would have led to a military escalation the end of which could not have been foreseen at the beginning. The result of Israeli reaction operations in the past was that when innocent civilians were killed in them (and the Arab sources of information naturally tended toward emphasizing and describing these deaths in vivid color and minimizing, if not completely ignoring, the blows absorbed by the terrorists), international public opinion very quickly forgot the reason for the Israeli action--the murder of innocent civilians by terror envoys from beyond the border--and Israel found itself condemned for carrying out murderous bombing of a peaceful population, or, at best, for "overreacting" out of proportion to the first act.

It may be assumed that in underlining the suitable form of reaction to "bloody Saturday," it was taken into consideration that controlling attacks from the air, even when the objectives are completely military, is more difficult and that it was worth limiting air force activity in contrast to previous cases when most of the weight of the reaction fell upon the air force. This time they chose to use mainly land forces and to give the air force a secondary task, although one which was important, of bombing targets far away from the border. The prior restriction on air force and armored forces limiting them to concentrate their attacks on points near the border was aimed at preventing as far as possible a clash with nonterrorist forces and, furthermore, at not creating a pretext for broadening the field of battle. It is the assumption, apparently, that the Syrian forces in Lebanon will understand the Israeli signals and will not have any interest in moving to the aid of the terrorists in Fatahland.

Since the main burden of the operation falls this time on the land forces, it appears that great importance was attached to the weather conditions in the timing of the operation. The "most expected" event--which had been prophesied by the communications media of the whole world since the day after Saturday and which everyone, even those who warned of the results of the reaction, knew had to come--was put off until dawn on Tuesday, not because of political hesitations, but because of the recent rains which softened the ground in the north and made it difficult for the infantry and tanks to advance.

The objective of the operation is emerging at this moment--when it is not yet completed--as, naturally, being the cleaning out of the area close by the border, about 10 kilometers in depth, and the creation of a security belt clear of terrorist bases. The penetrating Israeli force will apparently try to take over the terrorist strongholds, to strike at the greatest possible number of their personnel and to destroy the foundations of their deployment. It is not yet clear what the next steps will be: whether an attempt will be made to hold onto the bases or whether--as has happened several times in the past--the IDF forces will return to this side of the border after completing their mission.

There is, apparently, a trend among several policymakers to try and hold onto the terrorist bases for a longer period of time, maybe on the basis of the evaluation that the U.S. administration will now be more prepared than in the past to accept such a temporary takeover because of the impression of the bloody action [of Saturday].

If there is indeed such an assumption, then it is very naive and has in it more hopeful illusion than controlled political viewpoint. To imagine the possibility that the United States--with the power of veto over the counterresolution expected in the Security Council--will, in March 1978, accept an Israeli conquest in Lebanon, and not a temporary one, because the Beirut government has announced that it does not control southern Lebanon, is an idea so far away from commonsense that it is hard to think that responsible politicians could be caught by it.

The optimal possibility is that after the destruction of the bases by the IDF, Christian forces will be able to enter them or something on the lines of a new "interim agreement" will be achieved, to calm down the border and prevent terrorist actions (with Lebanon or with Syria?) with the aid of the good offices of the United States, similar to the agreement achieved at the time the IDF took over (Tel Shrayfa).

It appears that there is one thing in the IDF operation which is not in doubt: the elimination of the greatest possible number of terrorists will--for a certain length of time, at least--detract from their ability to carry out their destructive strike plans. This is a result that is not at all to be scorned, but it has in it no total solution and its deterrent effect is very restricted, as we have learned in the past.

RABIN DEPARTS FOR U.S., MAKES STATEMENT AT AIRPORT

TA170840Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 17 Mar 78 TA

[Text] MK Yizhaq Rabin said that the cabinet decision not to withdraw our forces from Lebanon before security arrangements are introduced is not likely to harm the peace process. It must be kept in mind that the objective of the terrorists was to undermine that process, he added, and said: I hope that the Egyptians understand this. Mr Rabin was speaking at Ben-Gurion Airport on departing for the United States for a series of appearances on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal.

As for the proposal to deploy a UN force on the border, the former prime minister said that he could not see which countries would agree to send soldiers to this force, which would be liable to clashes with the terrorists.

On air force bombings in Lebanon, Yizhaq Rabin said that in every fight against terrorists, whose bases are in refugee camps, civilians are liable to get hurt. The IDF is making every effort to minimize the strikes in such places.

HIGH-RANKING OFFICIAL CITED ON W. BANK, GAZA PEACE PLAN

TA151402Y Jerusalem POST in English 15 Mar 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By David Landau, diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Israel's self-rule scheme for the West Bank and Gaza will be the basis of an American peace package--with the important difference that Washington views the scheme as a transitional arrangement leading later to greater autonomy. A high Israeli official who voiced this assessment yesterday indicated that the U.S. might present its peace package at the Carter-Begin talks in Washington next week.

Other points made by the official were:

The Israeli self-rule scheme, which provides for an end to the military government, is "a significant step towards" fulfilling the "withdrawal of armed forces" requirement in UN Security Council Resolution 242. It is therefore wrong to say that Israel rejects the application of 242 to the West Bank. Israel accepts the resolution and its application to all fronts--but according to its own interpretation.

The gap between U.S. President Jimmy Carter's "Aswan formula" on the Palestinian question and Israel's proposed formulation is relatively narrow. But the gap on the issue of withdrawal-in-principle from the West Bank is much wider. (The two issues together are the main obstacles to an Israel-Egypt "declaration of principles.")

--Cairo seems no longer to be insisting on the physical presence of Jordanian negotiators at resumed peace talks with Israel, at it was until a few weeks ago.

--On settlements, the cabinet did not decide on a freeze in the West Bank, but only in the Rafah Area. West Bank settlement will continue--though strictly in accordance with cabinet timing and siting.

Predicting an imminent American peace package proposal, the high Israeli official substantially confirmed earlier American hints that Washington would seek to emphasize the element of transience in the Israeli scheme. The same theme was developed recently by British Foreign Secretary David Owen during his visits to Jordan and Israel.

Both Owen and American officials have dwelt on the provision for a "review" after 5 years that is included in the Israeli self-rule scheme, and to expand it into a significant pointer towards more substantial Palestinian autonomy after that time.

The U.S. is known to favour a plebiscite after 5 years, in which West Bankers and Gazans would be offered a choice between linkage to Jordan, linkage to Israel, or the continuation of the self-rule situation. The assumption is that they would plump for the first option, an entity linked to Jordan--which is what Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat, too, advocates as a solution to the West Bank-Gaza question.

A high U.S. official, briefing newsmen in Washington on Saturday, said the U.S. considered the Israel scheme "a step in the right direction. It offers the concept of Israeli review, of an interim agreement...by its own terms; it does not pretend to be a final solution...it does not assert the claim to sovereignty. It does provide for an end to the military government and for a new regime...with the local population participating in important if not all areas of the government. We never said this is an answer. But we have always said that it provides a basis from which negotiations should proceed."

Premier Menahem Begin, however, has said that the "review" clause is not intended to open the way for drastic changes in the self-rule scheme in 5 years time, but merely for minor adjustments.

Begin and other Israeli leaders have made it clear that Israel does not intend to withdraw its arms (or its settlers) from the West Bank after 5 years--and it is on this crucial point that there is likely to be tough discussion between Begin and Carter next week.

In his briefing on Saturday, the U.S. official in effect supported a continued Israeli military presence on the West Bank "during the interim period." But he noted that the Israeli self-rule scheme was "considered inadequate by the Arabs because it doesn't seem to...leave open what is obviously their objective--an Israeli withdrawal from these areas and their reversion to Arab control and authority."

Plainly Carter will seek to elicit a commitment to such ultimate withdrawal when he meets Begin next week.

Informed observers thought it highly unlikely that the interpretation of 242 voiced by the high Israeli official yesterday would "wash in Washington." The Israeli official had argued that the abolition of the military government was itself an implementation of "withdrawal of armed forces" as stipulated in 242. But the observers pointed out that the sponsors of the resolution, and the parties who accepted it, always took "withdrawal" to mean physical, military evacuation and cession of territory. The only unclarity was whether it meant all territories--as the Arabs, French and Soviets contended--or less than all territories, as Israel, the U.S. and Britain argued.

The high Israeli official argued, too, that after the abolition of the military government the source of legal authority in the West Bank and Gaza could be an agreement (to implement the self-rule scheme) concluded between Israel and Arab parties (whom he did not specify)--the point here being that the Israeli scheme need not be seen to rest legally upon a continued state of military occupation.

The fundamental differences over West Bank withdrawal were posing more a problem in the negotiations over a "declaration of principles," the high Israeli official said, than the question of a Palestinian formula. (High American sources tend to reverse the two issues in order of obduracy.)

Israel's recent proposals on the Palestinian question were "not too far from" Carter's "Aswan formula," the official said. He cited particularly the agreement by all parties--Israel, Egypt and the U.S.--to the key wording on the Palestinians' "participation in the determination of their own future through talks."

(These last two words, proposed by Israel and accepted by Egypt, are intended to define the extent of the Palestinians' "participation in determination...")

Still outstanding are the two other elements of the "Aswan formula"--"legitimate rights," and "all aspects" of the Palestinian problem. [paragraph continues]

Israel, the official said, was urging omission of the phrase "legitimate rights," which is considered to include the right to political independence, and inclusion instead of the word "right" by itself in the phrase "right of the Palestinians to participate in the determination of their own future through talks."

The high official conceded that even if an agreed formula could be found, that would only provide a common definition of the issue--not of its solution. Major differences might still evolve once the parties buckled down to discussing the substance within the definition.

On his assessment that Egypt would now be less insistent on Jordan's physical presence at resumed talks, the official said he based it on information regarding "what the Egyptians have been saying." He said Cairo had apparently lost hope of wooing Jordan's King Husayn to the negotiating table. He had apparently been much more reluctant than the Egyptians had at first anticipated. But parallel to Cairo's abandonment of the need for Jordanian participation had come a toughened stance regarding the specific terms of the "declaration of principles." Egypt was now insisting on formulations which were much more precise and far-reaching than the vaguer wording it had seemed ready to agree to back in January.

Explaining the government's settlements policy, the high official said that the freeze in Rafah applied even to prospective settlements that had been planned and approved by the previous government. The only settlement work that would go on there would be the strengthening of existing settlements.

On the West Bank, on the other hand, there had been no decision to freeze or suspend settlement work. The decision had merely been that any future settlement there must be specifically approved by the cabinet--and this would apply even to prospective settlements that were organized and ready to pitch camp immediately. The source felt that much of the recent inter-cabinet discord over settlement could easily have been avoided had the various relevant persons just bothered to telephone the premier and seek his consent for their various plans and actions before embarking on them. "As a taxpayer," the high official said, that is how he would have expected the administration to function.

In general, the official predicted that the pattern of creating new settlements inside army camps would soon run its course and cease. The system had many intrinsic advantages--the fledgling settlements had basic facilities provided for them on arrival. Moreover it had won the (albeit reluctant) consent of the U.S. administration, which had felt that settlements in army camps were less illegal than other types. But the period of such settlements appeared to be coming to an end, the high official said.

DAVAR COMMENTATOR EXPLAINS BRZEZINSKI'S POLITICAL CONCEPTS

TA161400Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 16 Mar 78 p 5 TA

[Teddy Preuss commentary]

[Text] The increasing clashes between Israel and the U.S. Jews and the U.S. administration are focused on the image of the adviser on national security affairs, Prof Zbigniew Brzezinski. With our without justification, he is regarded as the main adversary. There have been accusations which were later denied, at least partly, to the effect that the adviser is anti-Semitic, and that this anti-Semitism is spurring the administration on in several of its moves.

We are overgenerous in handing out the title of "anti-Semite," and we explain with it many interests, world outlooks and hostile moves. [paragraph continues]

Sometimes this is justified, but generally it is not. Those making moves likely to cause damage to Israel generally have a more rational motivation than hatred for Israel, just as many of the best of us do not act from philo-Semitic reasoning, or from considerations of morality and justice, but on the basis of considered assumptions of benefit to be gained. In order to study Professor Brzezinski's motivations it is, then, worth relying not on worthless psychology, but on more logical reasoning and on his writings. If possible, we should delve into his writings and the opinions which he expressed before taking office. Because the office places on the person serving the public limitations which prevent him from saying all he thinks. In the summer of 1976, that is, about half a year before he was appointed to his current office, Brzezinski published an article in the 23d issue of FOREIGN POLICY. In the article, "United States in a Hostile World," he explains the reasons for the drop in the prestige of and the sympathy for the United States. Brzezinski puts forward two extremely interesting point (in addition to others which have been accepted for a long time.) One is the drop in the power of the WASPs and the rise of Jews and Catholics to the heights of political influence. This observation does not have a pleasant ring, even though there is no hint of anti-Semitism in the explanation accompanying it. If complaints are made to him of "anti-Semitism," he can with justification reply, "So what? After all, I am also complaining against myself." For Brzezinski himself is a "new immigrant" from Poland and a Catholic. The second point, which is more important from Israel's aspect, is: The writer points out, with regret, that today most of the countries of the world are autocratic to this or that degree, from moderate statism to extremist despotism. The enlightened democracies have become a minority. Since the United States has been accustomed, by force of its basic philosophy, to see any democracy as an ally, it took up a stand from the beginning against the decisive majority of the world's governments. Hence "the United States in a hostile world."

The conclusions drawn from such a world viewpoint are not pleasant. Although Israel and the United States have common interests, we assume that there was an ideological proximity and a common way of life. All the Israeli and many of the American statesmen have often emphasized this. It is true that the claim has been heard recently that Israel is acting in contradiction of U.S. ideals (rule over another people--the Palestinians)--the pioneer of the claims being the former assistant secretary of state, George Ball. Since Ball's ideas are absorbed with a certain delay by the presidents to whom he is close, there is the fear that Jimmy Carter will gradually adopt his reasoning. However, this obstacle can be eliminated if we behave wisely--and this means acting, not just "explaining" why we are not behaving, with wisdom. Not so the realpolitik view of Brzezinski. Even if the interests common to Israel and the United States are as they were, Washington also has common interests with several Arab countries--and apparently more with them than with Israel. In the past also our scales held the ideology which, together with the interests, decisively outweighed, in many cases, the weight on the other side of the scale. However, Brzezinski has determined that "to introduce into the framework of U.S. foreign relations the ideological reasoning of a struggle between democratic-liberal forces and various doctrines of statist-despotism would be counterproductive...for this would create a doctrinaire coalition against the United States," neutralizing the ideological weight which has worked for our benefit up to now. If the United States bases itself on interests, as Brzezinski demands, our position will be worsened. Irrespective of whether this is good or bad for us, the world thinks that it is possible to benefit more from the Arabs than from Israel. All this, which has already been expressed here (DAVAR 6.4.77: "Brzezinski--A World Outlook Bringing With it Danger") could have warned Israel's foreign policymakers of the "surprise" which the administration is preparing. The writer of these lines tried to draw the attention of several ministers to the aforementioned article in FOREIGN POLICY, but apart from one, all the ministers replied that they "had no time." Unfortunately, this was not the only time that cabinet members would have to work hard afterward to solve a riddle which could have been solved through an hour's reading.

MOROCCAN ENVOY CONVEYS KING HASSAN'S MESSAGE TO SHAH

LD151814Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 15 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The shah received the minister of finance and special adviser to his majesty the king of Morocco at Niavaran Palace at 1830 today. At this audience, the Moroccan finance minister presented a message from King Hassan II of Morocco to the shah.

INFORMATION MINISTER COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH GDR

LD161122Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 16 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The monthly press conference for foreign correspondents in Teheran was held at the Ministry of Information and Tourism this morning. Dariush Homayun, the minister, answered in detail foreign correspondents' questions regarding Iran's policy on oil prices in the light of the value of the dollar, the increase in the exit tax, National Iranian Oil Corporation negotiations with the oil consortium and the possibility of Iran's mediation in connection with the Horn of Africa developments concerning Somalia and Ethiopia.

Answering a correspondent's question about Iran's current relations with the GDR, the minister of information and tourism said: Iran has not broken off its diplomatic and economic relations with that country. However, one can do nothing about fresh economic cooperation under the present circumstances.

A correspondent said Moscow Radio has been recently increasing its attacks on Iran concerning its arms purchases and Iran's domestic developments. The minister said: I have not seen these reports. In general, however, Iran's domestic developments are of no concern of others.

IRANIAN-FRG ECONOMIC TALKS BEGIN 15 MARCH

LD151616Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0400 GMT 15 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Mr Mohammad Yeganeh, minister of economics and finance and economic affairs of our country, who has gone to the Federal German Republic at the head of a delegation at the invitation of that country's economics minister, has begun his talks with Federal German economics officials. Mr Yeganeh is scheduled to hold talks also with the FRG chancellor and with that country's economics minister and representatives of industrial firms.

Simultaneously with the talks held between our country's minister of economics and finance and German officials, the Federal German economics minister said that Iranian-German talks in Bonn will make a substantial contribution to further developing cooperation between the two countries. He noted that he would hold talks with his Iranian counterpart on economic issues affecting the two countries in the context of intergovernmental cooperation as well as in terms of cooperation by the private sectors of the two countries.

FRG SHIPYARD SIGNS CONTRACT FOR SUBMARINES

LD141448Y Hamburg DPA in German 1413 GMT 14 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Hamburg--As expected, a contract for building six submarines of the 209 class has been signed in Teheran between the Iranian Navy and Howaldtswerke-Deutsche Werft AG. The shipyard announced on Tuesday that Deputy War Minister General Toufanian signed for Iran and the chairman of the board, Norbert Henke, for Howaldtswerke-Deutsche Werft AG. The vessels are to be delivered between 1982 and 1984. The six submarines will cost more than DM1 billion. The arms deal was approved last May by the Federal Security Council, because Iran is no longer considered an area of tension.

PAPER REPORTS NEW PLANS FOR NIOC, OIL EXPLORATION

LD141224Y Teheran PARS in English 1125 GMT 14 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Teheran, 13 March PANA (PARS NEWS AGENCY)--In an editorial on Monday March 13, the English language morning newspaper KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL commented on the following article by saying that....

When Hushang Ansari took over the National Iranian Oil Company [NIOC] some three months ago, he received instructions from the shahanshah to develop NIOC into the greatest corporation in the world from every point of view. Now, in his first major policy statement since his appointment as NIOC chief, Ansari has spelled out his all round plans to translate the shahanshah's instructions into reality. Ansari's first major move was to assess NIOC's advantages, which led him to recognise that in the company's possession was a vast pool of managerial and expertise capability. He further strengthened NIOC's human resource potential by appointing two [word indistinct] aides--Farrokh Najmabadi as technical deputy and Hassan Ali Mehran as economic and international affairs deputy. Both men were well experienced in their respective fields of responsibilities. Najmabadi, educated as an oil man, began his career in NIOC and was subsequently appointed to high offices where he was a key figure in [word indistinct] the country's industrialisation. Mehran, as deputy minister of economics and finance and then the governor of the Central Bank, accumulated vast experiences in financial and international affairs. Now that Ansari's plans for NIOC are known, one can see these two appointments in a better light. Ansari's plans call for an integrated approach to the development of the oil industry. In other words, he seems eager to blend NIOC activities into the mainstream of the national economy rather than retain the oil industry as an isolated entity, living its separate life while supplying 90 per cent of the nation's foreign exchange revenues and 75 per cent of the government's finances.

NIOC will still remain as the main earner of foreign exchange and provide the bulk of the government income. But its operations will no longer remain separate from the everyday affairs of the country. It will now use its vast purchasing power as a spur to investment in new fields of industry. The oil industry is so big that its spin-offs could well support a series of both small and large scale industries. Meanwhile, the plans for full exploration of Iran's mineral riches could bring immense benefits to the country. NIOC needs to expore every inch of the country to ensure a sound knowledge of where we have commercial deposits of oil and gas. With present prices of oil and gas, deposits in almost every part of the country could be worth commercial exploitation. And in so doing NIOC has the expertise and facilities to lend a helping hand to other organs to draw an up to date mineral map of Iran.

The new plans also call for NIOC research into non-fossil fuel in coordination with other institutions. This is in line with the idea of retaining the company as a major financial enterprise even when there is no oil to exploit. It is here that NIOC's contribution to the national effort to long term perspective. [sentence as received] Indeed, the national company will be a pace-setter both to the private and public sectors in their development plans.

BANGLADESH

BANGLADESH CONDEMNS ISRAELI ACTION IN LEBANON

BK161400Y Dacca Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Bangladesh has strongly condemned the latest Israeli aggression on Lebanese territory and urged the international community to prevail upon Israel to immediately and unconditionally withdraw from the occupied territory.

The Bangladesh reaction to the latest Israeli aggression is contained in a cable sent by the presidential adviser on foreign affairs, Prof Shamsul Haq, to the UN secretary general, Dr Kurt Waldheim. The cable said: The Bangladesh Government expresses deep shock at the barbarous attacks launched by Israel on Lebanon in flagrant violation of the UN Charter and international law leading to extensive loss of life and property.

The Bangladesh Government also called for paying compensation for the loss of life and property resulting from the Israeli aggression. In this context, Bangladesh reiterated its full support to the Palestinian and Arab brethrens in their legitimate struggle for the liberation of the territories illegally occupied by Israel.

The people and Government of Bangladesh, the cable said, also denounce the Israeli action of building new settlements in occupied Arab territories. They also deplore Israel's deliberate misconstruction of UN resolutions as a subterfuge to hold on to its illegal occupation of Arab territory.

The Bangladesh Government also told the UN secretary general that repeated acts of aggression by Israel in violation of international law and continued defiance of the UN resolutions with impunity have posed a threat to world peace.

Copies of the Bangladesh cable have also been sent to the secretary general of the Islamic conference and the secretary general of the Arab League.

Our diplomatic representative says the prompt Bangladesh reaction to the blatant Israeli aggression on Lebanon is a demonstration of its unflinching support to the Arab cause and its resolute opposition to conquest with the help of the army.

INDIA

INDIA CONDEMNS ISRAELI ACTION IN LEBANON

BK161639Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The Government of India has strongly deplored Israeli violation of Lebanese territory. In its view, the massive action taken by Israel cannot be justified on the plea that it was meant to safeguard Israeli territory.

This was stated by the external affairs minister, Mr Vajpayee, when the Syrian ambassador-designate, Mr 'Abadallah al-Khani, called on him in New Delhi today. The Syrian envoy told Mr Vajpayee that Lebanon has been subjected to a massive attack in which 40,000 Israeli troops are involved. He said several cities have been bombed and civilians killed.

Mr Vajpayee told him that punitive action by Israel on such a scale cannot but be serious and is likely to be widely and strongly condemned. The danger of a wider conflagration and the increase in efforts for a negotiated settlement have been hampered. Mr Vajpayee said as long as Israel does not vacate all occupied territory, according to the UN resolutions, and the Palestinians are not granted their rights, the danger to peace and stability in the region will remain.

DPRK VICE PRESIDENT HOLDS TALKS WITH VAJPAYEE

BK160949Y Delhi ISI in English 0849 GMT 16 Mar 78 BK

[Text] [DPRK Vice President] Kang Yang-uk had a meeting with the external affairs minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, on 15 March when the question of North Korea's stand regarding Kashmir was discussed, reports SAMACHAR.

Vajpayee took the opportunity to put things in a proper perspective as far as Kashmir affairs were concerned. He drew the attention of the North Korean leader to the fact that the United Nations resolutions were obsolete and recalled that after the conclusion of the Simla agreement, the two sides had decided that they would discuss outstanding issues strictly through bilateral negotiations.

Kang stressed the desirability of more frequent exchanges between North Korea and India for strengthening their relations in economic and political fields. He renewed the invitation to Vajpayee to visit his country.

Vajpayee reciprocated his sentiments and spoke about the continuing improvement and normalization of relations between India and its neighbors. He referred to the Farakka agreement and mentioned to him his recent visit to Pakistan, the first by any Indian political leader in the last 12 years.

Vajpayee also apprised Kang of India's efforts to normalize relations with China and said that the Chinese goodwill delegation was received with great warmth here.

He told him that with China there was a border question, but pending a solution, India would endeavor to bring about an improvement of relations in other fields.

Vajpayee dwelt at length on his visit to Pakistan and told him that he had informed the Pakistani leaders that UN resolutions on Kashmir were obsolete and that "a lot of water had flowed into the rivers of India and Pakistan since."

Vajpayee told the North Korean leader that it was laid down in the Simla agreement that the Kashmir question would be resolved through bilateral negotiations without any mention of the UN resolutions.

He also told him that after the National Conference under the leadership of Sheikh Abdullah won the state elections, it had declared that Jammu and Kashmir were an integral part of India.

Vajpayee expressed the sincere hope that in the light of this background, the Kashmir question would be properly understood by all friends of India. Kang hoped that India's problems with its neighbors would be resolved soon.

DESAI ADDRESSES PARLIAMENT ON PRC BORDER DISPUTE

BK1610047 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The prime minister told the Lok Sabha today that the entire border question with China is to be discussed so that the matter does not arise again at any time in the future. It has to be resolved to the mutual satisfaction of both the countries. Mr Morarji Desai was replying to a calling attention motion by Janata member Mr H.V. Kamath on the Chinese good-will mission's visit to this country. He said he has made it clear to the leader of the delegation, Mr Wang Ping-nan, that Sino-Indian relations cannot become close unless the border question was resolved through negotiations and peaceful means.

Mr Kamath asked whether the resolution adopted by the house soon after the Chinese aggression affirming India's determination to drive out the aggressor still holds good. The prime minister replied that we are bound by it but he would like to seek modification in the resolution. The words "drive out" must be replaced by the word "vacate." Mr Desai reaffirmed amidst applause that we are pledged to get our territory vacated.

He said that in his talks with Mr Wang the Colombo proposals to resolve the question were not mentioned. Nor was the Mcmahon Line referred to. The Chinese also say that they want to resolve the question peacefully. We will see how they want to do it. If their (?advance) is adequte, our response will be more than adequate. The prime minister also assured the house that no third country will be allowed to interfere in the matter.

Earlier in his main statement, Mr Morarji Desai said that the border question was briefly discussed between him and Mr Wang. They both agreed that all outstanding matters including the border question can be solved only through peaceful means on the basis of Panschsheel [five principles of peaceful coexistence].

INDIAN-BRITISH ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETING CONCLUDES

BK1610557 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 16 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Indo-British cooperation for joint ventures in third countries has been given a new dimension and impetus as a result of the 2-day meeting of the Indo-British economic committee in New Delhi. Focal points have been nominated on both sides to exchange information and pursue possibilities of promoting cooperation for projects in third countries.

The commerce minister, Mr Mohan Dharia, who led the Indian delegation at the talks, told newsmen today that new areas for bilateral cooperation have been identified to see that trade between the two countries gets a new boost. He said the negotiations will go a long way in further strengthening the industrial and agricultural base of the country and increasing its trade with Britain.

The British leader to the talks, Mr Edmund Dell, stated that both the countries are eager to develop their exports to each other. He said items on the shopping list offered to India will be competitively priced. The list includes power generation equipment, construction machinery and other industrial items.

DEFENSE MINISTER SPEAKS ON PLANS TO BUILD SUBMARINES

BK161014Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The defense minister told the Rajya Sabha today that technical discussions are in progress with a number of foreign shipyards for the construction of submarines in the country. Mr Jagjivan Ram said that a decision will be taken after evaluation of various offers.

In reply to a question by Mr D. M. Dwivedi and Mr R. K. Mishra, Mr Jagjivan Ram said that the need for indigenous construction of submarines has been recognized by the government. Since complete know-how for submarines in our own shipyards is not available, initial construction has to be undertaken with foreign collaboration.

KING OF BHUTAN TO VISIT INDIA 26-28 MARCH

BK141045Y Delhi ISI in English 0942 GMT 14 Mar 78 BK

[Text] King of Bhutan Jigme Singhi Wangchuk will be paying an official visit to India from March 26 to 28, it was officially announced in New Delhi on March [as received].

NEPAL

DELEGATION TO SIGN TRADE, TRANSIT TREATY IN INDIA

BK161548Y Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 16 Mar 78 BK

[Text] A delegation led by Minister for Industry and Commerce Mr Pitambar Dhoj Khati left Katmandu today for New Delhi to sign separate treaties on trade and transit. The treaties will be signed tomorrow. Minister Khati will also sign the agreement of the control of possible unauthorized trade.

The Nepalese delegation includes the foreign secretary, Mr Uddav Deo Bhatta; actin; industry and commerce secretary, Mr Ishwari Lal Shrestha; and three senior his majesty's government officials.

PAKISTAN

PAKISTAN CONDEMNS ISRAELI ACTION AGAINST PALESTINIANS

BK151614Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Pakistan has strongly condemned the latest Israeli aggression against Lebanon and the Palestinians and expressed deep sympathy for the victims of that aggression.

This was stated by an official spokesman in Islamabad this evening. The spokesman said Pakistan believes that Israel alone is responsible for the continued violent incidents in the Middle East.

The spokesman said the vicious circle of Palestinian activities and Israeli response in the form of attacks is a result of continued Israeli occupation of Arab and Palestinian lands. The spokesman said this is the most blatant example of chauvinistic imperialism in recent history.

The spokesman called upon the international community to discharge its responsibility in this case. The spokesman called for using the United Nations to find a definitive solution of the problem, which recognizes the Palestinian people's right to establish a sovereign state in their own land, and guarantees the end of Israeli occupation of Arab lands.

The spokesman urged the Security Council to guarantee the immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon and to make arrangements to help the victims of Israeli aggression on humanitarian grounds.

SRI LANKA

HAMEED SCORES ISRAELI INVASION OF LEBANON

BK161126Y Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr A. C. S. Hameed, who is also the chairman of the nonalined foreign ministers conference, told the SLBC [Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation] that he condemned the Israeli action in southern Lebanon as a serious violation of the territorial sovereignty of a country.

Mr Hameed said that he is watching the situation very carefully and would be contacting the coordination bureau to decide what action the nonalined movement should take.

The foreign minister said that action of this nature makes solution to the problems of the Middle East more difficult.

SRI LANKA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS STAGE 1-DAY STRIKE

BK151548Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1540 GMT 15 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Colombo, March 15 (AFP)--Students in the various campuses of the Sri Lanka University staged a 1-day token strike today.

Among other matters, they were protesting against the premature closure of the biggest university campus at Peradeniya, 110 kilometres (70 miles) from here.

The Peradeniya campus, which was to close for the vaction next Friday, was made out of bounds for students from March 10.

The early closure of the Peradeniya campus followed a strike by students there demanding the re-instatement of a lecturer who had been suspended for alleged acts of indiscipline.

BRIEFS

JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TO AFGHANISTAN--The presidential office has reported that Mr Toshikazu Maeda, the Japanese ambassador in Kabul, presented his credentials according to the normal procedures to Mr Mohammad Daud, president of the republic, at the presidential palace yesterday morning. Also present on the occasion were Mr Wahid Abdollah, minister in charge of foreign affairs, and Mr Mohammad Akbar, chief of the office of the president. [Text] [Kabul in English to Europe 1130 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD]

HUNGARIAN DELEGATION VISITS INDIA--Hungarian import of finished leather from India, which touched the 100,000 square meter mark during 1971 will increase threefold by 1982. This was stated by the leader of the visiting Hungarian delegation in New Delhi. The delegation is on an 11-day visit to India to identify areas for long-term cooperation between the two countries. [Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 7 Mar 78 BK]

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